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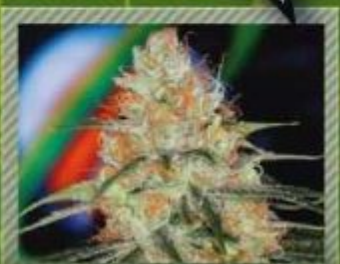
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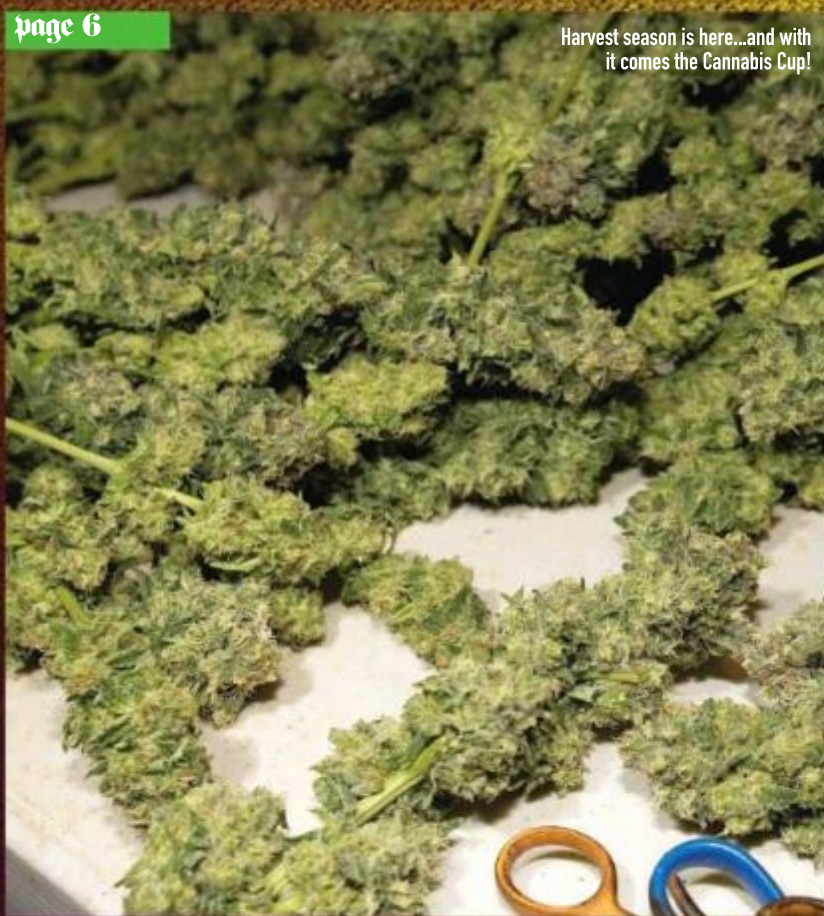


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FREEBIE

NEVER BUY WEED AGAIN?

Despite our best efforts here in the HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department to offer a balanced stream of stories for both the beginner and advanced grower, we sometimes tend towards the crazy, which is to say that we forget our roots. We forget about the past us, the youthful stoner getting high for the first time on some seeded bag of schwag weed. We sometimes forget that we didn't always smoke the good stuff and that we stretched a dime bag (one that we literally paid 10 bucks for) across a whole week—maybe two!

Well, for this issue, we thought about all that and realized that some of you may be there right now, just as we were five, 10 or even 20 years ago. (By the way, if you're lucky enough to be young but are still struggling to get high: Don't worry, stoner life only gets better!)

So we decided to focus a bit more on how smokers can get the most out of growing a little bit of head stash. This issue is packed with ideas on small, cheap closet grows or how to keep a perpetual-harvest garden going so that you'll never have to buy weed again! (See, the headline wasn't *that* misleading.) And don't forget that these ideas are now actual possibilities here in the glorious age of medical marijuana and patient grow cards.

Also featured in this issue, you'll find our annual Cannabis Cup preview. As most of you know by now, HIGH TIMES is less a magazine and more of an events company these days (joking). But seriously, we're now throwing *three* Cups a year: two Medical Cannabis Cups in the US, and the big one every November in the Mecca of Marijuana, Amsterdam. This year, we decided to focus on the lifeblood of the Cannabis Cup—the Dutch coffeeshops—and offer a glimpse of this year's hot spots in the 'Dam, the parties, the new breeders ... in short, a general all-around Cup Guide.

So sit back, relax and light up that doob, amigos! There is a lot here to enjoy. And when you're done, don't forget to a) follow me on Twitter for weekly grow tips and phatty nug shots (shameless, I know) and b) get your judge's pass now for the 2011 Cup in Amsterdam (that one's for you).

Hope to see you all there!

Nugs & Plugs,

Nico Escondido

Nico Escondido

Cultivation Editor

Follow me @ Nico_Escondido

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Executive Editor **Dan Skye**

Managing Editor **Natasha Lewin**

Sordid Affairs Editor **Chris Simunek**

Senior Editors **David Bienenstock**
Bobby Black

Senior Cultivation Editor **Danny Danko**

Cultivation Editor **Nico Escondido**

Cultivation Reporter **Ben Kind**

Cultivation Editor-at-Large **Jorge Cervantes**

Web Editor **Mike Gianakos**

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Rick Szykowny

Creative Director **Steven Hager**

Art Director **Frank Max**

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Associate Publisher **Richard Cusick**

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National Advertising Office: **419 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 16TH FLOOR
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Founding Publisher/Editor **THOMAS KING FORÇADE, 1945-1978**

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BY DAN SKYE

Ever since Michigan voters passed a statewide medical-marijuana bill, the state's cannabis industry has been marching briskly forward. Despite overwhelming popular support, powerful political opponents still lurk in the shadows.

46 GOT CUP? THE 2011 CANNABIS CUP PREVIEW

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

The cannabis competition that started it all is less than three months away and will be celebrating its 24th year (and counting). Have you been? If so, you already know, and if not, here's why you need to. Coffeeshop reviews, Cup history, judging, strains, breeders—you'll find it all at the Cannabis Cup this (and every) November.

56 HOW TO TURN YOUR CLOSET INTO A BUD FACTORY

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko opens the door on cannabis farming in smaller spaces with this in-depth feature on closet grows. Learn the ins and outs for producing personal amounts of pot in an area as small as 2 feet square.

64 NON-STOP CROP

BY BEN KIND

Money doesn't grow on trees, but buds do. So why pay for weed when you can raise a never-ending supply in your own personal space? All it takes is a little planning and some careful setup—and we'll show you how to get started with several easy-to-follow perpetual-harvest schemes designed for the novice grower and seasoned canna-culturalist alike.

80 HARVEST TIME IN MARIJUANALAND

BY JONAH RASKIN

Marijuanaland: Dispatches From an American War is the new book by Jonah Raskin, longtime marijuana reporter (and HT contributor) in and around his native California. In it, Raskin details the good, bad and ugly sides of cannabis culture throughout the famed Emerald Triangle.

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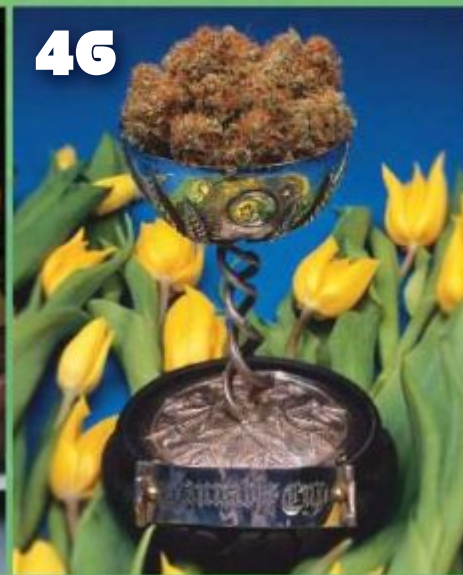
THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH ELIJAH WOOD
BY DAN SKYE

A generation of stoners grew up with the movies of Elijah Wood, hailed early on as one of the most talented young actors in Hollywood—even before *The Lord of the Rings* made him an international star. Now, the affable actor weighs in on life in the spotlight and shares some pithy opinions on the War on Drugs.

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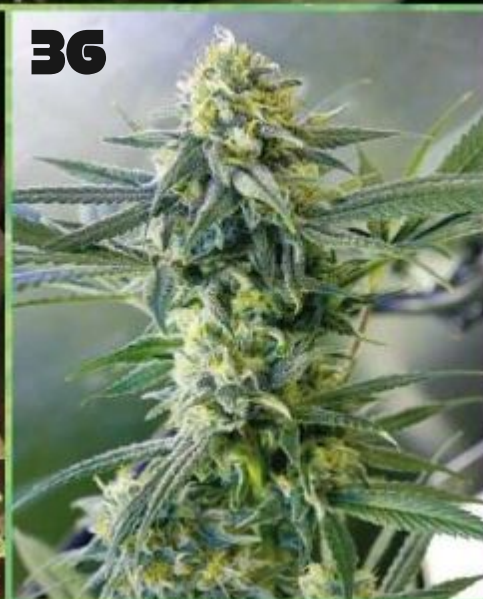
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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

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EDITED BY THE HIGH TIMES CULTIVATION DEPARTMENT

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DELA-WEED

Delaware has finally passed SB 17, our medical-marijuana bill. I attended the signing ceremony with the governor!

I am a disabled 25-year-old and benefit so much from this amazing plant. I was in a horrific car accident and was in a coma for about one and a half months and was supposed to die; then I was supposed to be a vegetable; then I was supposed to have to relearn how to do everything. Fortunately, I came out of the coma with just some brain damage and PTSD and a bunch of other brain problems, but you wouldn't know it if you saw me, so I am *very* lucky. I also suffer from back disease and chronic back pain and have had multiple surgeries on multiple problems, so basically I'm almost the walking dead—and yet marijuana saved me and keeps me sane and alive on this Earth.

I am a medical-marijuana patient and have been a loyal HIGH TIMES reader my whole life! I would love to see something in HT about DE now that we are finally a medical-marijuana state. (I AM SAVED!!!) I did a lot of work with the Marijuana Policy Project to help get SB 17 passed and was at the bill-signing ceremony with the governor (though I think I already mentioned that). How come I never see anything in HT about Delaware? I know we're a small state, but there are some BIG THINGS and BIG BUDZ going on here!

On July 1, the "affirmative defense" provision kicks in for med-pot patients on trial, and within one year we'll have our official medical-marijuana cards and three dispensaries open (one in each county—ha ha, yeah, I know: We're a small state). We'll be allowed to have six ounces a month, though we can buy only two ounces every 14 days. There is no home cultivation yet, but hopefully that will change.

But the East Coast is finally going green, and the First State is a part of it now! I love to smoke, I love to grow, I love to help people, and I love HIGH TIMES!

Todd K.

PARADISE BURNING

I'm Sergio from Brazil, and I'm a real fan of HIGH TIMES. I'm reading *Paradise Burning* by HT senior editor Chris Simunek again for the third time, and my trip with it is always great.

Here, I can only find pot pressed in blocks—so it's very sad for me to see the magazine's pictures of all those wonderful buds!!! I dream with them, imagining the smell ... but maybe, in a hundred years, the legalization situation will be changing here in the jungle.

Thanks for being such a great inspiration! I had a serious mental illness two years ago, and everybody demonized my love of the plant. (It's so easy to blame a plant.) But today I'm better than ever, and my pot helps me a lot.

Sergio from São Paulo



COUNTEROFFER

The coolest part about HIGH TIMES is that it's counterculture. I consider myself counterculture—you could pretty much tear this place down and start over.

Peace,
Mikey Neides

OLD SCHOOL

Hi, I'm 62—been smoking since high school in 1966. I live in a medical-pot state and buy from

different caregivers. All I hear on TV is that the pot of today is so much stronger than the pot of the past. What I'd like to know is what happened to the pot that gets you high, like the good old Colombian Gold or that smelly Skunk (couldn't smoke it inside without airing out the house)? It seems that these days, the growers are all trying to grow the prettiest plants—they look so good, all buds with red hairs, but where's the buzz? What happened to the *good shit*, as we used to call it?

RAC from RI

CULTIVATION OF PERSONALITY

Hello, HIGH TIMES—I enjoy your magazine and look forward to it coming out every month. I read everything I can get my hands on about cultivation. I've had two successful grows myself, and I'm absolutely obsessed with everything about the cultivation process (and would be even if I didn't smoke). My question is twofold: First, this is something I definitely want to do as a career, but I'm in an unfriendly state—well, actually, the state has made some progress, but it's the strictest state and no dispensaries have opened up here yet. (You can figure out which one by now, I'm sure.) What would be my best course of action at this point to get more prepared? Should I take some horticulture classes, or would that be wasting my time? Any info on getting legalized as a grower would be appreciated. And second, is there anywhere I can find an up-to-date strain guide? There's a lot of websites out there, but none of them seems to be updated that often.

Peace!
soserthc1

For all your cultivation and strain needs, check out Danny Danko's new book, *The Official HIGH TIMES Field Guide to Marijuana Strains* at hightimes.com/headshop/

ERRATA

The photo for the March 2011 Unsigned Band of the Month, IB, should have been credited to Demarius Kilpatrick.

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Richard Branson decries the War on Drugs.

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Former Swiss President Ruth Dreifuss.

It's time to come clean.

Governments can no longer spend untold trillions of dollars waging a global drug war on the citizens of the world. A new report, re-released by the Global Commission on Drug Policy on June 2, states exactly that.



An elite, 19-member commission composed a withering, 24-page paper which states that the "global war on drugs has failed, with devastating consequences for individuals and societies around the world." Members of the commission included political and public figures: former UN secretary general Kofi Annan, George Schultz, who held Cabinet posts under Presidents Reagan and Nixon, former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker, and the current prime minister of Greece. Plus, the former presidents of Mexico, Brazil, Switzerland and Colombia added their names. Richard Branson, head of the Virgin Group, as well as writers Carlos Fuentes and Mario Vargas Llosa were also part of the commission. As a group, they wrote: "Political leaders and public figures should have the courage to articulate publicly what many of them acknowledge privately: that the evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that repressive strategies will not solve the drug problem, and that the war on drugs has not been, and cannot, be won."



Former Colombian President Cesar Gaviria.

"THE WAR ON DRUGS HAS NOT BEEN, AND CANNOT, BE WON."

The report urges governments to end criminalization of drug use, experiment with legal models that would undermine organized crime, and offer health and treatment services for drug users instead of incarcerating them.

Naturally, the Office of National Drug Control Policy called the report misguided. An ONDCP spokesperson said, "Drug addiction is a disease that can be successfully prevented and treated. Making drugs more available, as this report suggests, will make it harder to keep our communities healthy and safe."

However, the report was especially critical of the US for its brutal anti-crime approach to drug use. "We hope this country will at least start to think there are alternatives," said former Colombian president Cesar Gaviria.

Consider the murderous drug war in Mexico. In 2008, the Obama administration pledged \$1.5 billion in equipment and training to aid. The results? The number of drug-related deaths rose to 15,273 in 2010, a 60 percent increase from the previous year. In fact, over the four years since Mexican president Felipe Calderon ordered 6,500 troops to engage the "enemy," 34,612 people have died. Of those, 30,913 were execution-style killings. And still, despite US funding, the market for pot, ecstasy and meth grew. On the world stage, the Drug War is just as ineffective. According to UN stats, from 1998 to 2008, opiate use increased 35% worldwide, cocaine by 27%, and cannabis by 8.5%.

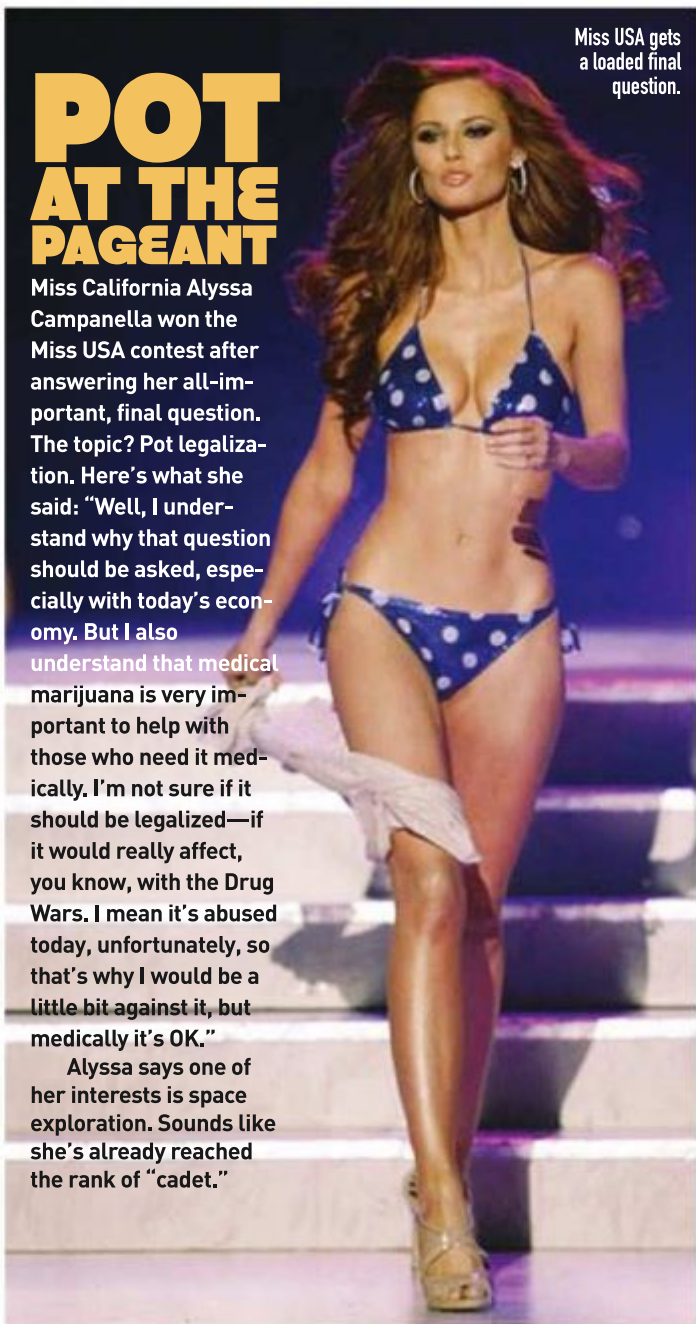
The report recommends that drug policies should be based on methods proven to reduce crime and promote economic and social development.



An overloaded ultra-light crashes to earth.

SMUGGLERS FLY LOW

In the eternal quest to move loads of pot over the US/Mexico border, smugglers are now flying ultralight aircraft that resemble motorized hang gliders to drop bales. With wings painted black, they fly at 500 feet, make little noise, and are customized to carry loads of over 200 pounds. Radar systems on the border have trouble detecting the ultra-lights. When they are spotted, the Border Patrol has responded with helicopters—with little success. However, you can add the cost of futilely chasing low-flying aircraft with million-dollar choppers to the Drug War tab.



Miss USA gets a loaded final question.

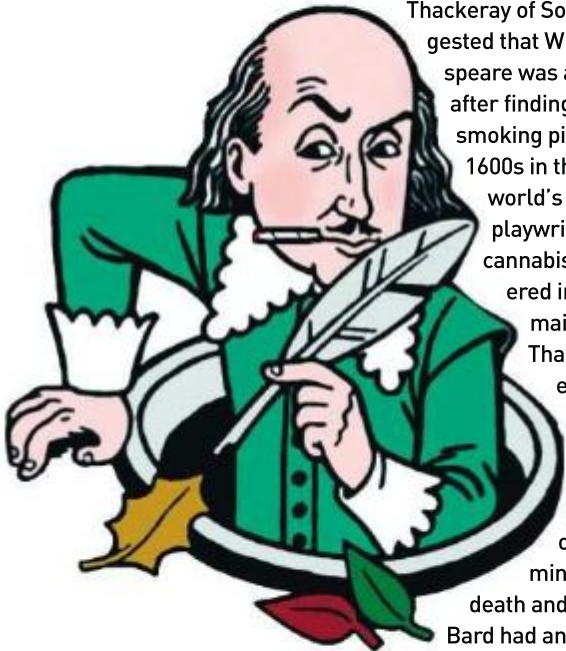
POT AT THE PAGEANT

Miss California Alyssa Campanella won the Miss USA contest after answering her all-important, final question. The topic? Pot legalization. Here's what she said: "Well, I understand why that question should be asked, especially with today's economy. But I also understand that medical marijuana is very important to help with those who need it medically. I'm not sure if it should be legalized—if it would really affect, you know, with the Drug Wars. I mean it's abused today, unfortunately, so that's why I would be a little bit against it, but medically it's OK."

Alyssa says one of her interests is space exploration. Sounds like she's already reached the rank of "cadet."

SHAKESPEARE'S BONES

A decade ago, anthropologist Francis Thackeray of South Africa suggested that William Shakespeare was a pot smoker after finding evidence of smoking pipes from the 1600s in the garden of the world's most famous playwright. Traces of cannabis were discovered in the pipe remains. Now Thackeray wants to exhume Shakespeare's remains in order to retrieve DNA samples in order to determine cause of death and whether the Bard had an affinity for drugs. Many Shakespearean scholars maintain there are numerous references to pot in Shakespeare's plays and sonnets.



Rihanna shows her true colors.

RIHANNA RULES!

Singing sensation Rihanna was recently spotted at a Los Angeles hotel wearing what amounts to a major free advertisement for us. Although she doesn't look all that high as she waits for her car, we give her the highest high-five we can for wearing the world's finest cannabis couture. Maybe she's just pissed off after the Parents Television Council criticized her for new song "Man Down" wherein she guns down the dude who sexually assaulted her.

GANJA THE ANTI-DRUG

Does pot offer freedom from addictive drugs? A 2010 study conducted at Humboldt State University and published in the *Harm Reduction Journal* found that medical-marijuana use by patients doesn't appear to compromise substance-abuse treatment—in fact, pot patients fared equal to or better than non-users for completion of such treatment.

A similar study (also published in *HRJ*) was conducted in 2009 by Amanda Reiman, Ph.D., of the Berkeley Patients Group. She surveyed 350 medical-cannabis patients and reported that 40 percent used cannabis to deal with alcoholism, 26 percent for illegal drugs such as cocaine and Ecstasy, while a whopping 66 percent substituted cannabis for legal prescription medications. The three most common reasons given for using pot in this capacity: fewer adverse side effects, better symptom management, and less potential for withdrawal issues.

Two other 2009 studies support Reiman's findings. A New York State Psychiatric Institute study found that opioid addicts who used cannabis were more likely to adhere to their Naltrexone pill-taking treatment, while a French study reported that dronabinol (oral THC) administered to lab rats suppressed opiate dependency. And in 2010, Harborside Health Center, a medical-marijuana dispensary in Oakland, CA, even established a substance-abuse program in which patients use cannabis to break their dependence on tobacco, alcohol, opiates and other drugs.

Cannabis substitution dates back to 1970, when the late Dr. Tod Mikuriya, a medical-pot pioneer, assisted a 49-year-old female alcoholic who used pot to beat the bottle. In Mikuriya's 2004 research, fully 100 percent of 92 medical-marijuana patients reported that pot was either "effective" or "very effective" in fighting alcohol addiction. Of that number, 10 percent abstained from alcohol for over a year and credited cannabis for their sobriety. More significantly, 21 percent suffered a recurrence of their alcoholic symptoms after ceasing pot use.

As NORML's Paul Armentano has noted: "Pot isn't a gateway drug; it's more like an exit drug."



Legal pot needs life support.

THE MARIJUANA BILL: DOA

In June, US Rep. Barney Frank (D) and Rep. Ron Paul (R) introduced a bill to allow pot laws to be established at the state level, rather than federal. Frank said, "Criminally prosecuting adults for making the choice to smoke marijuana is a waste of law enforcement resources and an intrusion on personal freedom."

Little traction is expected on the bill. Rep. Lamar Smith, who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, said that his panel would refuse to consider the bill, effectively killing it. Here's his reasoning: "Decriminalizing marijuana will only lead to millions more Americans becoming addicted to drugs and greater profits for drug cartels who fund violence along the US-Mexico border."

That's right, Lamar. Americans are begging for legalization so they can buy more Mexican pot. Maybe in Bizarro-World.

buzz



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We're high on a new collaboration between Sector 9 Skateboards and the Bob Marley family and estate. The Bob Marley series of four boards features iconic photos of the reggae legend and highlights Bob's innate ability—and courage—to unite cultures. The series is comprised of four board shapes, from "Babylon," a 26.5-inch cruiser, to the 40.5-inch "Revolution." You can also choose "Soul Rebel" or "Player."

Since 1993, Sector 9 has been at the forefront of environmentally sound skate culture and has never made a secret of being a pot-friendly company. Sector 9 produces the model for legendary surfer Joel Tudor, who has often appeared in the pages of HIGH TIMES. In fact, the Tudor model features a rolling tray built right into the board. Lively up yourself and get riding!

Visit sector9.com.

CREDIT CADS

Remember that catch phrase for American Express? "Don't leave home without it!"

Apparently, that doesn't apply to medical-marijuana patients: AmEx cards are no longer approved for use at compassion centers, and American Express has declined to say why. Some observers speculate that the action was motivated by complaints from companies whose employees used their corporate AmEx cards to buy meds—or perhaps an excess of fraudsters were using stolen cards. Whatever the case, the decision has left many cannabis-business owners scratching their heads. Says Aaron Smith, executive director of the National Cannabis Industry Association: "I don't understand why they would turn their back on a \$2 billion industry."



GOOD TIMING

We're obsessed with time. And what's worse, we invented the concept. But now we're enslaved by it. Thankfully, we also invented 4:20—time to take a break. Now you can be reminded stylishly when you wear the 4:20 Watch. Its 35mm face, wrapped in a stainless steel housing, offers a clean, unobtrusive look and it features either a saddle-stitched, black leather wristband or a green cotton strap. Plus, it's water-resistant down to 30 meters—guaranteed to withstand bong spillage.

Visit cadencewatch.com/420-watch.

THC & HIV

A study recently published in *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses* medical journal suggests that regular doses of THC slow the progression of SIV in Rhesus macaques. SIV is Simian Immunodeficiency Virus, which causes so-called "monkey AIDS." While it isn't definitive proof that pot slows HIV in humans, it does indicate that regular cannabis use doesn't increase the progression of HIV, a notion that has been incorrectly—and perhaps intentionally—promoted by a handful of "medical experts."

Some researchers have argued that hard drugs are a leading cause of HIV becoming full-blown AIDS because they wreak havoc on the immune system. Once a person has been diagnosed with HIV, immune-system protection becomes a priority, and hard drugs do just the opposite by impairing human immunological functions—even when HIV isn't present. Conversely, cannabis is used to treat HIV because it stimulates appetite and eases neuropathic pain. The study was conducted at Louisiana State University in New Orleans. SIV-afflicted monkeys who received THC every day generally had lower viral loads, less inflammation, better improvements in blood-cell ratios and a longer life span than monkeys who received placebos.

SHOWBUZZ



Justin fumes.

BIEBER BUDS

What kind of pot should you smoke when you want to feel like a 13-year-old girl? Go for the JB Kush, named after pop sensation Justin Bieber.

The word is that street dealers in Toronto are telling buyers that JB Kush "will help you get through those tough times with your loved one and make you feel closer"—just like a Justin Bieber song! (Not for nothing, guys, but that pretty much describes every strain of weed.)

Unfortunately, Justin isn't too cool with the unauthorized use of his name: His peeps are telling the media that he's furious and is considering legal action.

We wish the Biebs good luck with that.

BROWNIE FREAKOUT

We don't want to diminish the experience that Kara DioGuardi talked about with George Lopez on *Lopez Tonight* recently. The former *American Idol* judge and current star of *Platinum Hit* told the world that, while visiting her friend Paula Abdul's house, she ate six tiny pot brownies without knowing they were medicated and had one of those scary episodes where



Kara trips out.

she was forced to spend three days in bed. In all seriousness, everyone dealing with medibles should know their proper dosage.



Paula spaces.

As for the origin of the brownies, DioGuardi found them in Abdul's refrigerator, allegedly placed there by a maid after a party. But, of course, the brownies *did not*—we repeat, DID NOT—belong to Abdul.

Paula just had this party, you see, where a lot of pot brownies were put out on a plate for the guests. But somebody else brought them, of course, since they couldn't possibly be Paula's, right? And whoever brought them left them behind, not knowing that Paula doesn't eat pot brownies. So then the maid, not realizing they were pot brownies that didn't belong to Paula Abdul in the first place, put them in Paula's refrigerator and—well, this happens to everybody, doesn't it?

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1 MILLION STRONG!

According to Russ Bellville, outreach coordinator for NORML, the 1,000,000th legal medical marijuana patient added their name to the legions of others now using government-sanctioned cannabis. According to Bellville's conservative estimates, in the 16 states and District of Columbia where medical marijuana is legal, anywhere from \$2.3 to \$6.2 billion is spent annually. Bellville further speculates that as much as one billion pounds of legal cannabis is cultivated in America.

TOP 10 STONER STATES

Which states have the highest percentage of pot smokers per capita? Not surprisingly, nine of the Top 10 have enacted medical-marijuana laws. But that doesn't mean tokers have it easy.

1. RHODE ISLAND, 15.81 percent

Some claim New England's best buds are here. Prices tend to be lower with the right connections. Busts for small amounts usually end in probation, but expect to attend "drug education" courses and undergo "drug abuse evaluations." Busted while driving will cost you your license for six months.

2. VERMONT, 15.47 percent

Some great outdoor strains here—exactly what you need to endure the long winters. Availability and quality seem to depend on who you know, but prices figure lower than the national average. Any amount under two ounces can get you six months; first-timers generally receive probation.

3. ALASKA, 14.92 percent

No shock it's ranked high, given the state's liberal pot-law history. Various court rulings have yet to establish how much pot Alaskans can legally possess in their homes, so some cities are taking matters into their own hands. Northern Lights is probably Alaska's most famous strain, decently priced. Common high-end strains tend to be more costly than in the lower 48.

4. NEW HAMPSHIRE, 14.5 percent

No medical-marijuana laws here. Prices at mid-level range. Incredibly, pot laws are the third most severe in the US; possession of any amount can get you a year behind bars and a \$2,000 fine.

5. OREGON, 14.09 percent

Legendary hippie state with a strong grow tradition. Availability is solid; prices tend to be significantly lower than the national average. No jail for under an ounce, but up to 10 years for an ounce up to 110 grams. Plus you can get fined \$100 just for visiting someone's house where pot is found—even if you didn't smoke!

6. COLORADO, 11.72 percent

Some of the best pot and pot laws in America. Possession of less than two ounces is a \$100 fine, allowing recreational users to feel somewhat safe. Even cultivation of two zees or less (without intent to profit) is a \$100 fine and no jail.

7. MONTANA, 12.32 percent

A strong love of the herb prevails in the Big Sky State. Lower prices than elsewhere, but possession of less than 60 grams can get you jail, though it's usually probation for first-timers. Cultivation of any amount gets you up to 10 years.

8. MASSACHUSETTS, 12.28 percent

Some of the most lenient pot laws in America. Possession of under an ounce is only a \$100 fine. Even with multiple busts for over an ounce, probation is possible. A state Supreme Court ruling forbids cops from ordering people out of a parked car if they smell pot. (You've got a place to party before the concert!) Lots of strain varieties. Pricier than most New England states for indoor.

9. WASHINGTON, 12.20 percent

A good selection at lower-than-average prices. But the laws are sketchy: Any possession—even a joint—comes with a mandatory minimum one-day jail sentence and a \$250 fine.

10. MAINE, 12.12 percent

Of the Top 10, five are New England states ... Northeasterners love weed! Tolerant laws—less than 2.5 ounces only gets you a \$350 to \$600 fine and no jail time; more than that is considered intent to distribute. Prices a little higher than neighboring states.

Editor's Note: As our most populous state, California's pot-smoker population is huge. However, its per capita rate is 11.53 percent, ranking it 13th overall—tied with Michigan!

MORE RIGHTS UP IN SMOKE

The U.S. Supreme Court recently okayed warrantless searches for drugs in an overwhelming 8-1 decision. The ruling was based on the *Kentucky v. King* case from 2005, in which police officers in Lexington, KY, entered an apartment without a warrant while in pursuit of a suspected crack dealer during an "undercover buy" operation.

In that case, miscommunication with an undercover narc led uniformed cops to approach the wrong apartment. Police testified they smelled marijuana while outside the door and announced their presence by knocking loudly. The officers said they heard "noises" from inside the apartment that sounded like a toilet flushing. They then announced their intent to enter, kicked the

door in, and found

Hollis King and

two other

people

with a

quantity of

pot and

crack.

There was

only one prob-

lem: King wasn't the crack-dealing suspect the cops were after—that person was in the adjacent apartment. (He was subsequently arrested as well.) In prosecuting King, the DA argued that the cops were legally permitted to enter his apartment without a warrant thanks to the exception for "exigent circumstances": for example, when people are in imminent danger, when a suspect is escaping—or, in this instance, when there's reason to believe that evidence of a crime is being destroyed.

In January 2010, the Kentucky Supreme Court dismissed the evidence against King, ruling that the cops did not face such an emergency to justify entering his apartment. Kentucky prosecutors appealed the decision, maintaining that the search and seizure were legal because the officers believed they were entering the apartment of the original suspect.

In 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that illegally seized evidence shouldn't be thrown out if the cops made an "honest mistake." The court has now granted police even more leeway in conducting the War on Drugs with this latest ruling. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg issued the lone dissent, criticizing the majority for "dishonoring the Fourth Amendment" and asking rhetorically: "How 'secure' do our homes remain if police, armed with no warrant, can pound on doors at will and ... forcibly enter?"



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THE HIGH TIMES GUIDE TO

STUDENTS FOR SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY RATES THE TOP COLLEGES FOR MARIJUANA ACTIVISM.

As the largest student organization in the US working to involve young people in the political process, Students for Sensible Drug Policy focuses on changing the debate about the War on Drugs on campus, at the state level and even in Washington, DC, where our national office lobbies federal officials—including a call to stop denying student loans to those with a single marijuana conviction while, incredibly, people convicted of violent crimes face no such sanctions.

“When it comes to the War on Marijuana, students and young people are two of the most impacted and targeted demographics,” notes SSDP associate director Stacia Cosner. “Our students not only educate their peers about their constitutional rights, they also gain a platform to actually change marijuana policy.”

In compiling our annual list of the Top 20 Colleges for Marijuana Activism, we had a chance to review the accomplishments of all of our amazing chapters across the country—and, increasingly, around the world. With so many dynamic young people making real progress on this issue, we know the future of SSDP is in very good hands. In fact, our organization played a key role in last November’s historic push for marijuana legalization in California via Proposition 19 (which lost by a mere eight percent), and our members are ready for more!

“SSDP’s membership showed incredible enthusiasm and professionalism throughout the campaign for Proposition 19 last year,” says associate director Jon Perri, who confirms that chapters in California, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and throughout the Midwest and Northeast will be working on a variety of marijuana-law reform efforts leading up to the 2012 elections. “We’re gaining hands-on experience in campaign management, grassroots organizing and drug-policy activism, and it’s amazing to see how hard our students work on influencing policy change all over the country.”

To see which schools have an active SSDP chapter that you can join, or for more info on how to start one yourself, visit www.schoolsnotprisons.com.



1) Northern Illinois University

The NIU SSDP chapter almost disappeared this year, at least officially, when school administrators claimed the organization was “political” and therefore ineligible to receive funding or even official recognition. Chapter leader Jeremy Orbach contacted the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), the ACLU and SSDP’s board of directors to discuss strategies for changing this policy at his school in order to protect free speech for all groups on campus. In the end, the chapter not only became an officially recognized group, but it helped change an unconstitutional school policy in the process! In recognition, the NIU SSDP was given the “Grace Under Fire” Award at our 2011 SSDP Awards Dinner.

2) Northeastern University

Northeastern’s SSDPs work closely with other Massachusetts chapters to make a difference in state and local politics, including working for medical marijuana and even full legalization. NU SSDP has also experienced rapid membership growth, partly due to its popular “Wire Wednesdays” series, in which the chapter screens episodes of HBO’s *The Wire* as a way to spark discussion of the impact that drug prohibition has on disadvantaged communities.

3) Northern Virginia Community College

NOVA SSDP made thousands of calls to California voters during the campaign to pass Prop. 19 last fall and also helped to organize a St. Patrick’s Day Alcohol Harm Awareness Day on campus

as well as the DC Marijuana March. Chapter members take advantage of their close proximity to Washington, DC, to volunteer frequently in the SSDP national office and assist with outreach at events like the Rally to Restore Sanity.

4) University of Oregon Eugene

Led by activist Sam Chapman, the University of Oregon SSDP chapter worked tirelessly to pass Oregon’s Measure 74 last year—a bill that would have helped ensure safe access to medical marijuana by establishing state-compliant dispensaries. On Cinco de Mayo, the chapter also memorialized the thousands murdered in the Drug War violence in Mexico by having members simultaneously “drop dead” in the middle of campus.

HIGHER EDUCATION



SSDP members advocated for an end to the War on Marijuana in front of the US Capitol at the 2011 SSDP Lobby Day.

5) Columbia University

From phone banking in support of Prop. 19 last November to working on local harm-reduction programs like syringe exchanges and overdose prevention, it's been an incredibly busy year for the members of the Columbia University SSDP. They even coordinated a media response to Operation Ivy League, a high-profile drug bust that resulted in five undergraduate arrests, reminding the public that law-enforcement resources could be better spent elsewhere. And they've taken the lead in bringing together SSDP chapters in the greater New York City metro area to join forces on various campaigns and events.

6) Utah State University

Utah isn't exactly known for progressive drug policies, and that's why it's

so satisfying that the Utah State University SSDP chapter was just recognized as the "best new student organization" on campus. And no wonder, given that its members have already helped plan an SSDP camping retreat and hosted an informative "Know Your Rights" event. They're currently working with other Utah chapters to make marijuana possession the lowest law-enforcement priority in Salt Lake City.

7) Virginia Commonwealth University

During the winter break, SSDP at VCU trained over a dozen students to lobby their representatives in Richmond on supporting HB 1443, a bill that would have decriminalized marijuana. And on "Wellness Wednesdays," listeners can tune in to the campus radio station to hear the "Just Say Know" drug-education

project, which is coordinated by SSDP members at VCU in collaboration with campus public-health administrators. In recognition of all of these achievements and more, we presented SSDP at VCU with one of our "Outstanding Chapter" Awards at our national conference in March.

8) University of Michigan Ann Arbor

The University of Michigan SSDP has been one of the organization's strongest chapters for years. Currently, it has focused its efforts on getting the school to acknowledge the rights of medical-marijuana patients in Michigan. It also recently hosted former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson for a discussion of drug-policy issues with students, and many chapter members are speakers and participants at the annual Ann Arbor Hash Bash.

9) University of Connecticut

Sam Tracy, the former president of UConn SSDP, was elected president of the university's student governing body this spring—just one of more than a dozen SSDP members elected to student-government positions. Together with other allies, they were able to pass a resolution expressing support for a marijuana-decriminalization bill that is currently moving forward in the Connecticut statehouse. On the state level, SSDP members have trained and organized their fellow students to lobby on issues such as medical marijuana, decriminalization, and even opposing a bill that would have arbitrarily inflated the penalties for drug possession within a certain distance from public schools.

10) Roosevelt University

The SSDP chapter at Roosevelt University, led by cousins Abigail and Valerie Moore, worked with other campus groups to organize a forum called "The Controversies of Drugs," in which they discussed how the Drug War impacts Chicago—especially on issues like the disproportionate incarceration rate of minorities and the Higher Education Act Aid Elimination Penalty (the law that denies federal financial aid to students with drug convictions). This fall, Roosevelt SSDP will also host our annual Midwest Regional Conference.

11) University of Maine Farmington

Our only chapter in Maine, UMF SSDP sent chapter leaders to testify before the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice in support of the state's proposed marijuana-legalization bill. UMF SSDP members also traveled to Washington, DC, twice this year, to participate in the Conservative Political Action Conference as well as SSDP's 2011 Training Conference and Lobby Day.

12) San Jose State University

SSDP's chapter at San Jose State University was deeply involved in the campaign to pass Prop. 19 in California by collecting signatures, registering voters and educating citizens. The chapter also hosted a debate last fall that featured a former San Jose police chief who now supports legalization, and it recently helped organize a candlelight vigil to mark the 40th anniversary of the War on Drugs.

Nearly 500 students gathered in Washington, D.C. for the organization's activist training conference.



13) West Chester University

In their first year as an established chapter, West Chester University SSDP members have already advocated in favor of a statewide medical-marijuana law as well as a lifesaving "medical amnesty" law. They've also spread their message by promoting AMPLIFY concerts featuring Roots of Creation and other acts committed to our cause. We recognized their hard work at our conference this March by giving WCU SSDP the "Rising Star Chapter" Award.

14) Los Angeles City College

Led by community organizer Rodrigo "Froggy" Vazquez, the members of the newly formed SSDP chapter at Los Angeles City College made big waves during the Prop. 19 campaign, including outreach to local communities about the harms of marijuana prohibition. And they continue to impress our staff by building coalitions with other campus and community groups. We expect big things from them in 2012.

15) Florida State University

Located in Tallahassee, the state capital, FSU SSDP members have gotten heavily involved in the statewide campaign for medical marijuana and other drug-policy reform issues. They've also worked with other Florida SSDP chapters on local decriminalization initiatives, most notably in Miami. And they offered a shining example of how to transfer leadership when many of the chapter's leaders recently graduated. As a result, a new crop of activists has emerged on campus, and they're hard at work ex-



SSDP members worked tirelessly on Prop. 19, a 2010 California ballot initiative that would have legalized marijuana in the state.

'SSDP's membership showed incredible enthusiasm and professionalism throughout the campaign for Proposition 19 last year.'

panding their already strong chapter network.

16) Lewis & Clark College

Chapter leader Christopher Van Putten had the Lewis & Clark SSDP chapter up and running within a week of deciding that he wanted to do something to change cannabis policy in Oregon and beyond. The chapter became official in March 2011 and is already hard at work collecting signatures for the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act of 2011.

17) Emerson College

Despite not being an officially recognized student group for over a year and a half, Emerson SSDP members have been hosting events, participating in the Boston Pride Parade

and Boston Freedom Rally, and holding regular chapter meetings on campus. Next year, they plan to continue working with student-government leaders and the school's administration to reduce penalties for on-campus marijuana-possession violations.

18) University of Northern Colorado

SSDP chapter leader Chris Pezza has already formed not one but *two* active chapters in Colorado. In the coming year, the University of Northern Colorado SSDP will be focused on protecting medical-marijuana patients' rights, as well as advocating for psychedelic-drug research and reducing the prison population. Its members are also

working to pass Colorado's 2012 legalization effort by collecting signatures and registering voters.

19) Rutgers University New Brunswick


Although they ultimately couldn't get it on the ballot last fall, Rutgers University SSDP members led the "Sensible New Brunswick" campaign, which had the goal of passing a referendum to make adult personal possession of marijuana the lowest police priority in the city of New Brunswick, NJ. RU SSDP also hosted several special guest speakers, including former NYPD officer Tim Datig from Law Enforcement Against Prohibition and HIGH TIMES' own associate publisher, Rick Cusick. And eight RU SSDP members made the trip down to Washington, DC, in March to lobby their federal representatives during SSDP's 2011 Training Conference and Lobby Day.

20) Kent State University

Last fall, KSU hosted SSDP's Midwest Regional Conference, the largest midwestern gathering of SSDP members to date. Former chapter leader Angel Gagliardi is now the state coordinator for SSDP Ohio, a volunteer position that is essential to increasing communication among our Ohio chapters. Meanwhile, former chapter president Chris Wallis now serves as SSDP's AMPLIFY Project coordinator, where he connects chapters around the country with the opportunity to spread the word about drug-policy reform at live music events ... all of which goes to prove that SSDP members stay involved for life! 🌱

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pottronica

A NEW GENRE IS ON THE RISE—LIKE SMOKE FROM A BURNING MACHINE. BY MARK MILLER

FOR YEARS, THE GENRE OF ELECTRONICA HAS EARNED BOTH PRAISE AND SCORN FROM MUSIC FANS ACROSS THE SPECTRUM—BUT DURING THAT TIME, IT'S TAKEN ON MANY DIVERSE FORMS AND STRETCHED FAR BEYOND THE DANCE HALL INTO THE REALMS OF PUNK, INDIE AND JAMBAND. IN 2011, ELECTRONICA HAS SPREAD FAR AND WIDE, SPAWNING AMPLE SAMPLES BEING CREATED BOTH BY AND FOR STONERS. YOU CAN CALL IT "POT-TRONICA"—WELL, WE DO, ANYWAY.

DEAD RIDER

The Chicago-based foursome is fearsomely pot-tronica on their new LP, *The Raw Dents* (Tizona Records), traipsing through territory both dark and light, all of it part of a "bigger box of crayons," as guitarist/singer Todd Rittman puts it. (The group's handle, in case you were wondering, stems from a bastardized German translation of his name.) Dead Rider is more of a fully realized band than many electronica outfits, as seen in the great riffing interplay on songs like "Mother's Meat" and the ominous carnivorous synth of "Two Fictional Lawyers."

Rittman says "paranoia" is a primary theme of the record, including "the possibly paranoid idea that a number holds some special significance—and suddenly that number appears more and more. In some form, the number '205' is in several songs on the new album. Do we make music to appeal to stoners or what?"

Pot's influence on the creative process varies for Rittman: "As far as writing goes, my experiences with drugs have always had a big influence on my music. But using pot in the studio, I end up second-guessing everything and doing lots of damage control."

Rittman broke a rule when asked what the new LP's title means: "I didn't want to reveal it, but this is HIGH TIMES, so I will say it's some obscure local [Chicago] drug slang. I chose it as an album title because I like it as an image of something being freshly damaged—a 'raw dent'—and being better off for it."



BIG PAUPER

Big Pauper's Drew McIntyre truly lives his art. The band's name reflects his philosophy, and so does the new album's title, *Beyond My Means* (Circle Into Square). Songs like "Blue Dream" work best under a clarifying *sativa* that helps distinguish the dizzying arrays of musical montage: There's soul, classical, raga, avant-garde and more swirling in its eclectic, electric stew, as well as the kind of topical sarcasm featured in songs like "The Stale Breath of 1000 Lucrative Club Bangers."

Big Pauper hails from New Hampshire, a small state that nevertheless claims the fifth-highest percentage of marijuana users in the US. As far as making pot part of his creative process, McIntyre prefers it in post-production: "I wait until I've constructed something to listen to before pot enters the equation. I often enjoy a little listening party with the 'pot goggles' on to really check out and understand the environment I've created."

Asked about the inspiration behind Big Pauper's name, McIntyre says: "In choosing art as my profession, I've chosen the path of the pauper. But living under the calculated shade of the American dream, I've wrangled a decent credit score and excessive credit limit. Thus Big Pauper was born."

The band's songs are piled-high sonic sandwiches that deserve repeated munching. McIntyre revealed how much work he puts into his craft: "It's a laborious process of harvesting various forms of media, from VHS tapes to wire recordings. Some tracks took three to seven years waiting to stumble upon just the right element."

And though he disavows consciously creating drug music, the track "Your Nighttime Energy Is the Dream of the Elf" boasts a psychotropic genesis: "It was a phrase I scribbled down in my sleep, a transmission from a dream state. I was reading [famed psychedelic researcher] Terence McKenna when I wrote that song, and it could have been a segment from the book that followed me into the dream world."



HYPE WILLIAMS

Hype Williams is the Euro duo of Dean Blunt and Inga Copeland, who split their residency between Berlin and London, even though their new album is titled *One Nation* (Hippos in Tanks). On it you'll find competing synth lines and strong, echoing percussion carving out sizable slices of doped-up despair. Most Hype Williams songs are vignettes, but "Mitsubishi" drifts on for over seven minutes toward narcotic shores. Blunt and Copeland also take the prize for conducting the most ... challenging email interview of 2011. We're not sure who was typing what, but it probably doesn't matter.

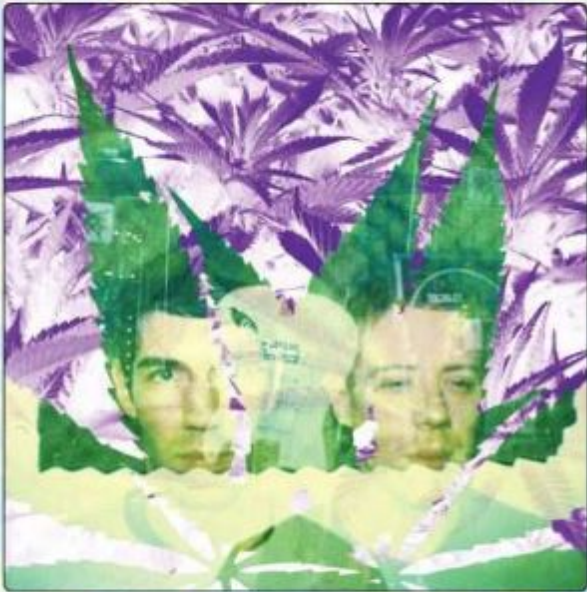
Asked if drugs play a role in the creation of Hype Williams' music, they replied simply: "We're straight-edge." And if that weren't snarky enough, consider their follow-up: "This music is the best 'Above the Influence' project ever." ("Above the Influence" is the federal government's inane marketing campaign that supposedly discourages all drug use but is mostly anti-pot.)

The two also seem to possess a somewhat discombobulated relationship with Rastafarianism. On one hand is the compelling "Jah," which sounds like it was cooked up deep in a New

York City subway. But when asked about the song "Homegrown," they offered no more explanation than "It's a 'dis' record to all Rastas."

There's a lot going on in the average Hype Williams song, but when queried on their general creative approach, they fired back: "The tunes are crafted by our good old friend Burt Blackarach. We send the sheet music and he creates it all."

We pretty much gave up on the interview at that point. Moving on to the next band ...



YVETTE

No, we didn't get some bad bud and accidentally include the latest Auto-Tuned airhead pop princess in this article: YVETTE is a droning, drug-infested musical force from the gritty city of New York, and certainly nothing that the average soccer mom would want their kids getting anywhere near.

On YVETTE's eponymous self-released seven-inch, songs like "Vibrations" literally seem to oscillate, with even more of a head rush delivered via the intentionally chant-like, traded-off vocals of Noah Kardos-Fein and Rick Daniel on "Plussed."

When it comes to crafting stoner music, Rick says: "We don't cater to any drug experience, but people have told us it seems that way. I think it's a lot better under the influence—more enhanced—because our music definitely lends itself to the imagination."

Noah adds: "After a show, a friend told me she wished she was on acid for our set. I was pretty psyched about that."

While YVETTE appeals to stoners, they're not out to win over the jamband crowd with their short songs. "Rick and I bonded over a shared pet peeve of songs that go on too long and bands that overstay their welcome live," Noah relates. "There's nothing worse than a band that keeps on playing and playing—sorry to all the Phish fans out there—so we err on the side of leaving an audience wanting more rather than wanting to leave early."

GNOME & SPYBEY

Gnome & Spybey are a San Francisco instrumental duo offering a mellow comedown much like a sweet *indica* buzz after your mind's been blown by the other bands. The pair have put out two connecting albums, *Willie's Place* and *Beyond Willie's Place* (Tourette Records/Sepiatone Records), that feature ethereal electronica on tracks like "Quiet Noise"—an apt description of the G&S sound—while "Aether Dr" reveals their slyly esoteric humor ("aether" being the undiscovered "fifth element" of legend).

The "Gnome" in their moniker is Tony D'Oporto, while "Spybey" is Mark Spybey. Asked where his nickname comes from, D'Oporto answers two questions at once: "The name comes from my main project, Gnomes of Kush—a dedication to OG Kush, my favorite strain of pot. Using marijuana helps me focus and really get into programming my music. It also helps me get into a meditative mind-set for making very slow ambient music." Based in San Francisco, D'Oporto notes that he has no trouble staying focused and meditative.

While their songs have no lyrics, Gnome & Spybey employ samples of Ram Dass, the psychedelic guru who has influenced D'Oporto significantly. D'Oporto was more candid than many pot-tronica artists when asked if he crafts "drug music" intentionally: "Mind expansion is a big part of my life. Sometimes I like to imagine someone listening to my music under the influence of many psychedelic drugs or marijuana. Although I don't use psychedelic drugs anymore, I can still achieve that mind state, and music helps me achieve it. I hope it's the same for others!"



STONER STAND-UPS

POT COMICS SPEAK OUT. BY PAUL KRASSNER

Lenny Bruce was the first stand-up comic to explode the taboo about decriminalizing marijuana. Fifty years ago, he predicted: "Pot will be legal in 10 years. Why? Because in this audience, probably every other one of you knows a law student who smokes pot, who will become a senator, who will legalize it to protect himself. But then no one will smoke it anymore. You'll see."

Although that hasn't happened yet—especially on the timetable that Bruce envisaged—Lenny's premature ejaculation could finally become a reality. Meanwhile, because of the satirical trail he blazed, today's comedians have no fear of speaking freely about weed onstage. Here's three of 'em.



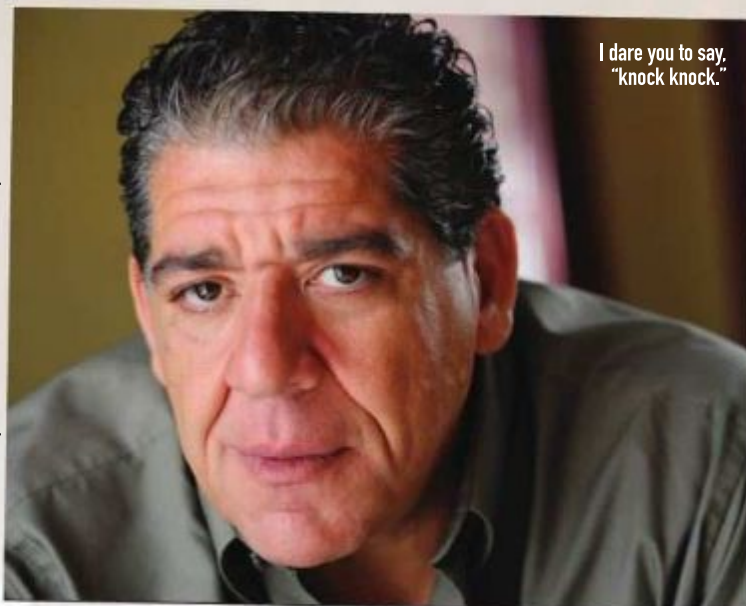
Nothing funny about that bag of herb.

DAN MADONIA

"One day, while smoking a bowl, my mother called. I was only half into the conversation (as tends to happen with mothers)—I only remember her saying, 'I know you don't like surprises.' That night, when I got to the comedy club, a friend offered me a medical brownie. Not being rude, I ate three. As I took the stage and the brownies kicked in, I realized what my mother had been telling me on the phone: My straight-laced religious aunt was coming to see me. I realized this because she was sitting right there in front. There I was, surprised by something I had been warned about. Thanks, marijuana!"

JOEY DIAZ

"I started smoking marijuana in the late '70s. At first, I was an occasional smoker, because I wasn't sure. What got me was when I went to the Village in New York City to cop with my friend Lefty. He took me to a Catholic Church that sold weed during the day in the bingo hall. They had two types of weed, Chocolate Thai and a Master Mix. The funny thing was, the place was hopping. I grew up Catholic and was never really sold on it—but after seeing this, I knew that reefer and the religion were both for me."



I dare you to say, "knock knock."



Dylan gets Rocky Mountain High.

DYLAN BRODY

"A friend called me on a Friday. I know it was a Friday, because I was doing what I always do on Friday: I was listening to Hendrix and weeping for my lost youth. This old buddy of mine was in town and wanted to come by my house and get high. I used to smoke constantly—if some people 'experimented' with marijuana in college, I conducted 17 years of extensive research. I quit smoking regularly years ago, and for months afterward I had horrible nightmares—I kept dreaming that I was hanging out with Ralph Reed [former executive director of the Christian Coalition] and we were sort of getting along! I would wake up screaming in horror, drenched in sweat, wondering who I was turning into. I was pleased to learn over time that even without grass, I retained my basic love of humanity, my liberal ideals, my left-leaning politics.

"I still think cannabis should be legalized for medical, industrial and recreational uses. I told my friend I would love to see him. He showed up at my home with a baggie full of the beautiful, stinky green bud that has become so prevalent now and was such an exciting and rare find back when I smoked all the time. We talked politics and reminisced, then he left and I crashed on the couch with the TV on. I dreamed that I sat with Barack Obama and Karl Rove and we passed a joint around while we watched the election returns on television. As the smoke drifted up past the big red-and-blue map of the states, the lines

blurred, the image streaked and pooled and ran like watercolors in the rain, until the whole country was united under a beautiful purple haze."

Joey Diaz, Weed Professional:



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Judas Priestess breaking the law. Left to right: JoJo Tubeato, Grace Maiden of Metal, Gyda Gash, Militia Vox.



HEADING OUT TO THE HIGHWAY

JUDAS PRIESTESS TAKE THE CONCEPT OF A TRIBUTE BAND TO A HIGHER PLACE. BY POLLY WATSON

A sleek black town car glides to a halt in front of a run-down warehouse in industrial Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The tinted rear window rolls down, and a raven-haired woman clad in leather and spikes peers at me over a pair of blackout shades, though the chilly sun is casting its last rays of the day. Behind her, a stunning girl wearing a shredded black tank top and cherry-red pout leans forward. "I'm sorry we're late!" she offers huskily. "Where do you want us?"

No, this is not a teen fantasy, or even the beginning to an early '80s ZZ Top video; it's guitarists D and Grace from Judas Priestess, the world's only all-female Judas Priest tribute band. Made up of veterans from bands as diverse and respected as British noise legends Psychic TV and seminal NYC punks the Stimulators, Judas Priestess formed only a couple years ago. Since then, they've built a following as rabid (if not quite as large) as that of the New Wave of British Heavy Metal (NWOBHM) gods whose music they skillfully rip through on a nightly basis.

Within an hour, the remaining members have shown up, and the tiny bathroom in the warehouse-cum-practice-space is hot with smoke and toilet-to-sink with leather and spikes. Grace pushes a double handful of weed into the photographer's lens as vocalist Militia, bassist Gyda Gash, and drummer JoJo strut and preen around her. D has vanished, but I can tell by the dazed expression on the face of the slight, oxford-shirt-clad girl passing me that she hasn't gone far. Judas Priestess are an anomaly in indie-rock Brooklyn.

"What you see is what you get!" says Grace. "When I go to the store for a pack of smokes, I rock spandex, leather and chains. This is how we look every day."

Leaning against the sink, the guitarist lights up gleefully. Her band mates decline to join her, but not because they're anti-weed. "I think they should legalize it and tax it just like they do alcohol," says JoJo. "Legalizing it would create jobs, boost our economy and make room in our jails for real criminals." Adds Gyda: "Making it a crime just shows what a hypocritical society we're living in. Alcohol, non-prescription medications and cigarettes are far more dangerous than weed!"

'THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T DONE THEIR HOMEWORK ON US AND COME TO A SHOW EXPECTING A GOOD LAUGH. NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THEY'RE SCREAMING AND CRYING AND BEGGING TO BE OUR GROUPIES.'

Militia, who's been aptly described in the press as "a cross between Rob Halford and Tina Turner," glances wistfully at Grace. Though the vocalist favors cannabis-heavy fragrances like Cannabis Scental by Fresh, she gave up smoking weed with good reason: "It kills my throat, and momma's gotta sing!"

Indeed she does. Though Judas Priestess have broken out of the local tribute-band scene, opening for metal legends Pentagram and traveling up and down the East Coast, they know they have a lot to prove—as women in the traditionally male metal arena, and as musicians paying tribute to one of the most worshipped bands in the genre.

"Judas Priest is the gold standard of heavy metal," explains D. "We have to deliver the goods!"

Militia agrees. "There are a lot of people who haven't done their homework on us and come to a show expecting a good laugh. Next thing you know, they're screaming and crying and begging to be our groupies."

The women of Judas Priestess work hard to make that happen. "We aren't the average tribute band who dresses exactly like the band members and play the band's music note for note," says Grace. "We play Judas Priest songs the way we want to play them, which gives Judas Priestess the edge of originality that most tribute bands generally don't have."

Part of that edge stems from their stints in other, original bands. Judas Priestess are well aware of the stigma attached to tribute bands, but they're also savvy about the music business. "We have all written our own music," explains Militia, who cut her teeth in grindcore and industrial bands and currently sings in Dee Snider's horror orchestra Van Helsing's Curse. "The irony is that people's demand for Judas Priestess is high, so we will continue to make the supply."

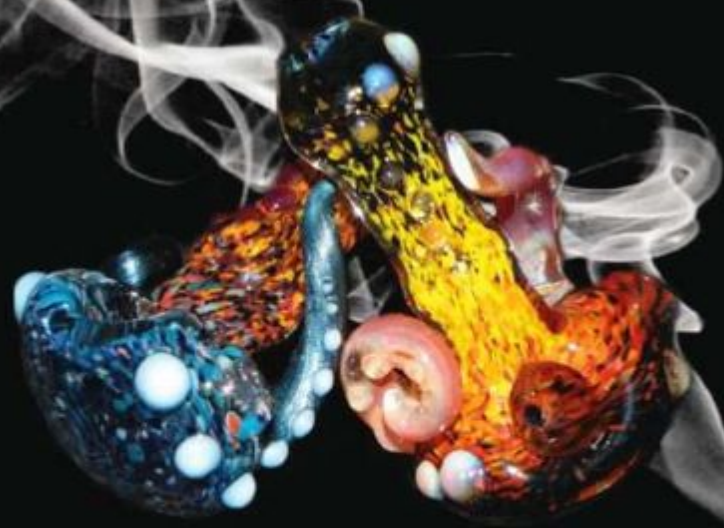
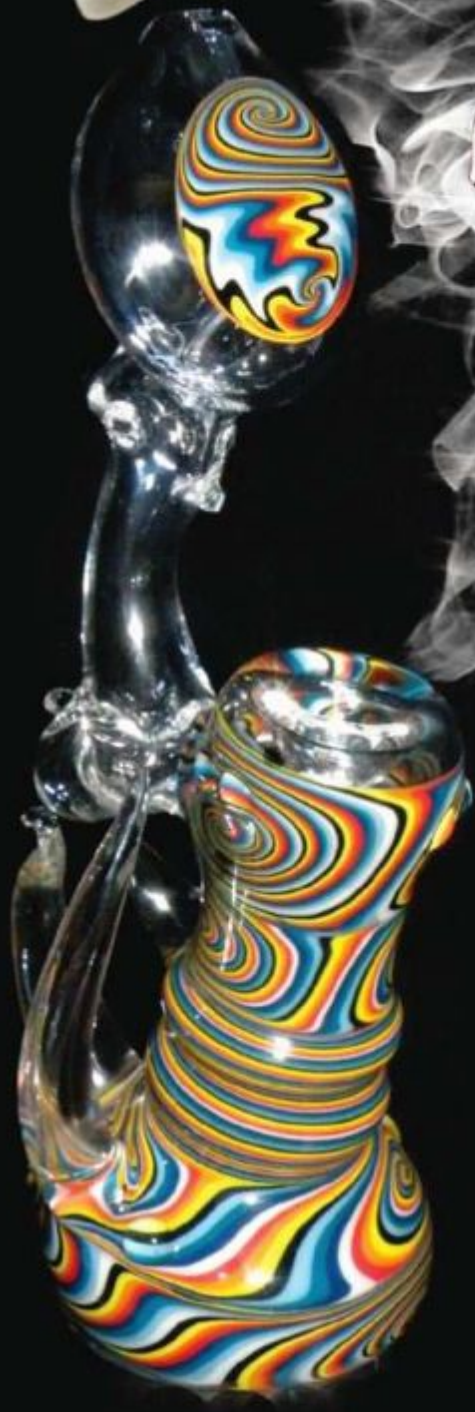
Judas Priestess know that X-rated outfits and XX chromosomes aren't the reason for their success. There's only one reason that they have gigs lined up from New York to Alaska (literally). "Good is good, no matter how you hear it or who's playing it," concludes D. "We're good." ✨



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NOT YOUR DAD'S FISHING TRIP

Square Grouper: The Godfathers of Ganja

Directed by Billy Corben

(Rakontur)

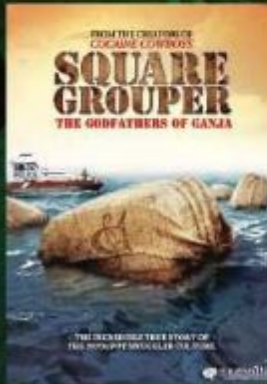


Square Grouper is Miami media studio Rakontur's pot-fueled follow-up to their hit documentary *Cocaine Cowboys*. Necessarily told at a slower pace, it chronicles the tales of those who made money hand over fist "fishing"—i.e., importing and exporting beautiful bales of 1970s greenery (a.k.a. "square groupers") along the South Florida coastline.

The movie's tagline is "The Incredible True Story of the 1970s Pot Smuggler Culture," which is apt enough. But if it were tweaked just a bit to "Incredible True *Stories*," it would be a dead-on description of what the movie actually is: not some comprehensive sociological survey of the culture, but rather three distinct portraits of three very different smuggling rings, all of them really well told.

In the 1970s, it was still conventional wisdom that pot would be legalized soon. Most folks, whether they were smokers, smugglers or squares, thought that the days of marijuana prohibition were numbered, and so the general idea was to stay under the radar and make as much money as possible before we as a nation could finally grow our own. Obviously, things didn't work out that way.

The first part of the film deals with the Coptic Church. Through a series



of interviews with its founding members (finally out of the slammer) as well as fast-moving archival footage, we see a few white dudes finding God in Jamaica and eventually growing into a full-blown smuggling ring. Theirs was one of the earliest battles to protect the use of ganja as a religious sacrament, but the archival footage does have its awkward moments—such as when Brother Louv invited the press into the multimillion-dollar commune of the South Florida Coptic branch, only to have the cameras roll on little children puffing away on some seriously fat blunts like nobody's business.

The Black Tuna Gang didn't make any claims to religion, but they *did* rake in ungodly sums of money. When they were finally busted, it was estimated that they were responsible for ushering in a whopping 8 percent of the US pot supply from Colombia. In September 1981, the bust made the cover of *HIGH TIMES*—which was only fitting since, from the Black Tuna Gang's fledgling days, *THMQ* served as their pricing guide. Glad we could help!

The last part of *Square Grouper* deals with the small town of Everglades City (pop. 600, give or take). If Miami was one of the major battlegrounds in the War on Drugs, Everglades City served more like a forward base: Surrounded by the 10,000-plus islands of the Everglades, it was the perfect hub for smuggling operations. And when commercial fishing was phased out and the local fishermen had to find new sources of income, smuggling caught like wildfire.

Billy Corben has pulled off a wonderful movie in *Square Grouper*, which is packed with Jimmy Buffett-style pirates come to life—vivid, unique personalities who are also nearly forgotten pillars in the history of the counterculture. This one's a must for all fans of pot-smuggling lore.—**Mary Ought Six**

FLEET FOXES

Helplessness Blues

(Sub Pop)



Sudden success can be a heavy cross. When their self-titled '08 debut made Fleet Foxes an overnight indie sensation, expectations weighed heavily on principal songwriter Robin Pecknold, which helps explain the nearly three-year wait for a new album. But it was worth it, as the Foxes sidestep the sophomore slump and expand on their brand of catchy, progressive baroque folk. The almost complete absence of electric instruments contributes to the aura of another age, one that recalls the delicate beauty of '60s Brit folkies like Pentangle, Renaissance and, more recently, the Texas sextet Midlake.

Focusing on Pecknold's doubts and heartache, this is a darker disc, though it still rings brightly with mandolin, fiddle, harpsichord, dulcimer, harp and harmonium. The dreamy "Montezuma" wistfully ponders his advancing age, while the haunting, Eastern-flavored "The Plains/Bitter Dancer" offers a nearly six-minute paean to a failed relationship. Elsewhere, Pecknold imagines himself as an exile grappling with competing desires to be "Someone You Admire" or "throw you on the fire," echoing the album's recurring theme of obedience versus rebellion.

These ideas coalesce on the title track, in which Pecknold puzzles over the Western concept of individuality. He explains that he'd "rather be a functioning cog in some great machinery serving something beyond me," but he also rejects the mechanisms of the state and the "men who move only in dimly lit halls that determine my future for me." Overall, this is a stirring, strangely spooky effort.—**Chris Parker**



ZIGGY MARLEY

Wild and Free

(Tuff Gong)



If you're already a Ziggy Marley fan, prepare to be thrilled by *Wild and Free*—and if you know some peeps who are potential fans, this is the album with which to convert them.

For one thing, Woody Harrelson joins Ziggy on the opening title track (and even gets credit for his lyrical contributions in the liner notes). Unlike his nostalgic, warbling performance in *The Prairie Home Companion*, this is Woody cutting loose and belting it out. Ziggy sings, "I see hemp fields forever, growing wild and free!" to which Woody replies, "I see marijuana trees, blowing in the breeze!"

On the second track, "Forward to Love," Ziggy jumps right into the up-tempo beat with a sweet and mild falsetto, crooning: "Don't go away when you know that it feels good" Despite the variety of songs on offer here, *Wild and Free* always finds its own balance: Each track feels perfectly contained yet deliberately offsets the ones that flank it. It's not always smooth sailing, though: I was jarred out of my chair when "Welcome to the World" opened to rock my headphones with the crystal-clear gurgling of a baby.

Unexpected newborn in the room aside, I just can't love on Ziggy's latest enough. There's a single-worthy jam with Heavy D, melodic whistling, beautiful threads of angelic lady voices, shining backup singers, engaging guitar lines, bongos, electric organs and (my personal favorite) the cowbell—all ingeniously assembled to make *Wild and Free* one pristine musical package.—**Mary Ought Six**



ATOMIC BITCHWAX

The Local Fuzz

(Tee Pee Records)



The word "epic" gets overused in today's culture, but it's a fitting description for Atomic Bitchwax's latest. *Fuzz* is a truly ambitious album: one solitary song running nonstop for an aptly weed-friendly 42.0 minutes. It's a monumental instrumental, encompassing prog, metal, jazz, '70s retro, jamming and interludes of experimental touches. There's always another aural excursion lurking around the corner, like a desperate mugger waiting to surprise and even assault you.

A blazing explosion serves as the overture—the first of an alleged 50 riffs spawned on the album by the New Jersey power trio (we got too baked to count all the signature changes, so we'll take their word for it). A more melodic passage from guitarist Finn Ryan at the seven-minute mark breaks tempo as drummer Bob Pantella kicks in with a quasi-military beat. If there's ever a Weed World War, *Fuzz* could be the soundtrack for it, as it conjures images of courageous warriors clashing on the battlefield.

The album changes tack abruptly at 23 minutes, as the slowed-down rhythms from bassist Chris Kosnik and delicate picking from Ryan produce this opus's most emotive passage. If it's possible to identify a single highlight, it comes at the half-hour mark, when a Pantella beat mixing groove and drum rolls coalesces harmoniously with Ryan's equally colorful oceanic leads. Racing headlong at 41 minutes into the super-charged climax of meltdown effects that mirrors the opening, *Fuzz* is simultaneously a candidate for best stoner album and best stoner song of 2011.—**Mark Miller**



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THE RISK OF BEING RIDICULOUS

A NEW NOVEL ILLUSTRATES THE POWER OF AN ICONIC DECADE.



Guy Maynard pipes up.

They say if you can remember the '60s, you probably weren't there, but Guy Maynard has just blown that theory to dust with the release of his first novel, *The Risk of Being Ridiculous* (Hellgate Press). I've been waiting a long time for an *On the Road* for my generation, or maybe just something that could approach the emotional complexity of actually living through those times without resorting to the one-dimensional clichés that riddle most attempts—and I think I've finally found it.

Set over six weeks in 1969, *Ridiculous* tells the story of a 19-year-old radical named Ben Tucker, who is grappling with a recent turn toward violent tactics in opposing the Vietnam War while simultaneously experiencing his first real love affair. The author spent the last 15 years crafting this masterpiece; he was aided by extensive correspondence and personal writings from the period, and it shows, since the book never hits a false note while charting some of the most turbulent times in American history.

The story is entirely autobiographical and chronicles Maynard's own arrest in Boston in 1969, when he was charged with felony assault on a police officer. The entire Boston police force targeted him for revenge, so he escaped to Eugene, OR, and became a journalist.

"Believing you can actually overthrow the most powerful country in the history of the world and believing in love are equally ridiculous notions," says Maynard. "But everyone should believe in them at some time, because there's a power in believing that."

There's a lot of pot and hash smoking in this book, as should be expected, and also one hilarious scene on LSD. (Tucker accidentally wanders into a room with a strobe light and starts to melt down while trying to figure out where he is.) Some of the book's most effective moments are Tucker's internal dialogues regarding politics. The novel is set at the peak of the antiwar movement and the peak of the repression against it, a time when many people—Tucker included—are naive enough to believe that this movement has become powerful enough to challenge the corrupt forces running the country and replace them with something more compassionate.

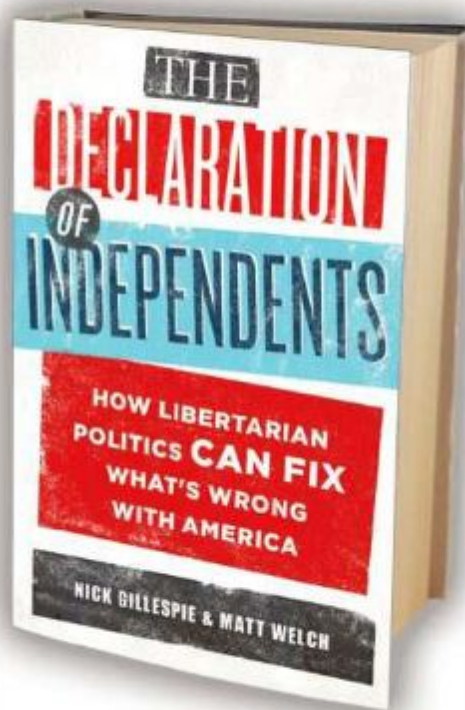
When my kids ask me what the '60s were really like, I'm going to hand them this book.

—Steven Hager

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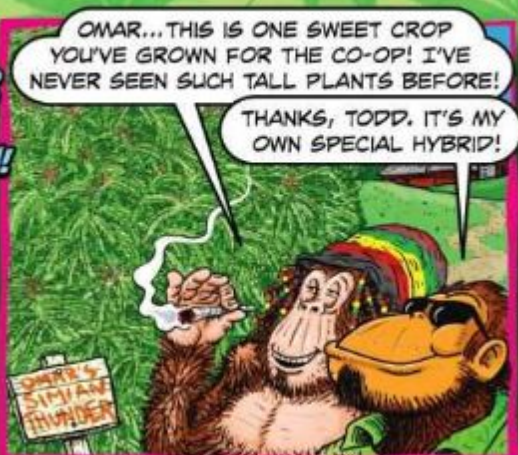
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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH GLADIATORS EAT FIRE

Gladiators Eat Fire is an organic, psychedelic, hardcore group from the heart of Seattle, WA, on a sonic journey in search of identity and freedom of self-expression.

In March 2011, the band celebrated the official release of their debut full-length album. The self-titled album marks the culmination of over two years of work and identifies the band as an emerging new sound in the Seattle music scene.

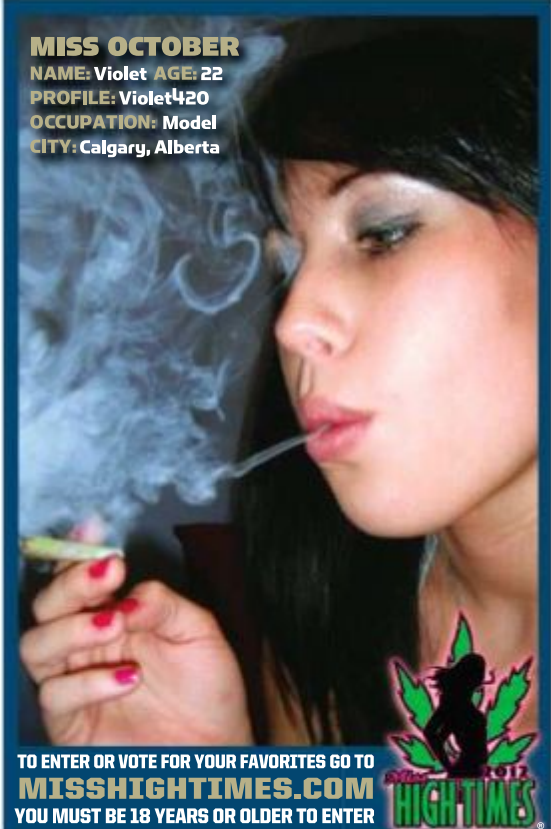
GEF was founded by vocalist Mark Blazer and guitarist Brian Kim, who quickly found a kindred spirit in drummer Joseph Wilkinson. Last year James Erwin was formally announced as the band's bass player.

Currently, GEF is at work writing and recording another EP showcasing an updated sound and Erwin's influence on their collective style. With the release of their full-length debut GEF is ready to go all in all over again.

For more information on Gladiators Eat Fire, including audio samples and tour dates, head to hightimes.com/gladiatorseatfire.

MISS OCTOBER

NAME: Violet AGE: 22
PROFILE: Violet420
OCCUPATION: Model
CITY: Calgary, Alberta



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MARIJUANA MANOR

All this talk around the office about our low-budget closet-cultivation issue brought to mind the memory of the first time I tried to grow weed. Back in my high-school days, my buddy Mike and I used to hang out in the park around the corner from his apartment building every weekend with our misfit

metalhead crew, drinking forties and smoking jays. Eventually, the cops starting showing up and giving us a hard time, so we had to seek out more clandestine spots to get our buzz on. We hid in basements, alleys, cemeteries, even an old churchyard ... until one fateful day during our senior year, when the big old house right across the street from Mike's building went vacant.

Fences were erected around the abandoned property, and notices of construction and no trespassing were posted—none of which did a bit to dissuade us from sneaking in after sundown and throwing our own little pot parties. Beer balls and boom boxes blaring, we explored every ramshackle room of the two-story "Manor," as I took to calling it—getting high, hanging out and playing war games. Occasionally, a nosy neighbor would call the police, who'd roll up with their searchlights and squawkers trying to scare us out. But they were always too lazy to come in after us, and even if they did, we'd worked out at least three escape routes. In short, the Manor became our new Fortress of Stonitude.

Week after week, we kept waiting for a construction crew to show up and either renovate it or knock it down, but nothing happened. Finally, after several months of no activity, Mike came up with the brilliant idea to turn that old money pit into a money tree: We'd grow weed in it. See, about a year earlier, Mike had—with some help from HIGH TIMES—turned his little clothes closet into a mini-growroom, in which he cultivated a few four- to five-foot plants. Only problem was, despite his best efforts at stealth and securi-

ty, his parents had discovered and shut down his little grow op. Now, with my help, he was ready to reboot his herbal ambitions.

The plan was pure genius: In the master bedroom at the back of the second floor, there was a sort of walk-in closet that had a south-facing window in the back wall. We



WHEN THE BIG OLD HOUSE
ACROSS THE STREET FROM
MIKE'S BUILDING WENT
VACANT, IT BECAME OUR NEW
FORTRESS OF STONITUDE.

figured out that if we went out onto the fire escape, we could climb into the closet through that back window. So, one evening just around dusk, we hauled in the soil, buckets, fan, etc., and got to work setting up our guerrilla growroom. When we were finished, we took a big piece of sheetrock and nailed it up over the door of the closet—creating a false wall so perfectly camouflaged you'd never suspect there was anything behind it.

The rest was easy: We'd just sneak in a few times a week to water and maintain the plants and keep track of our progress. Our babies got air and sun all day, and no one ever even knew they were there. By the end of the summer, we'd grown 10 plants and were harvesting around a pound of bud. Some of it we sold to our friends, most we smoked ourselves. Granted, it wasn't the best-quality herb—we were using cheap equipment and knew little back then about genetics or nutrients. Still, it beat the hell out of spending our pocket cash on \$20 bags, and what's more, there was that feeling of pride we felt knowing we'd grown it ourselves.

This went on for nearly a year ... until one day, just a week before we were about to harvest our third crop, I got that devastating call from Mike: He'd returned from vacation with his family to find a crew had finally arrived with a wrecking ball and reduced our secret *sativa* sanctuary to a small mountain of rubble. Our dreams of illicit entrepreneurship may have been killed that day, but Marijuana Manor and the weed we grew there will live forever in our memory—and now, in the pages of HIGH TIMES as well. ✨

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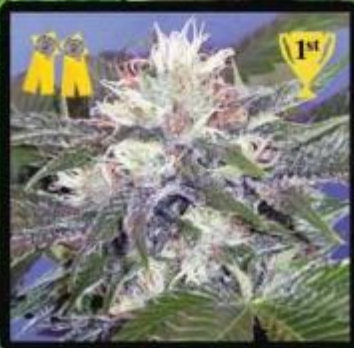
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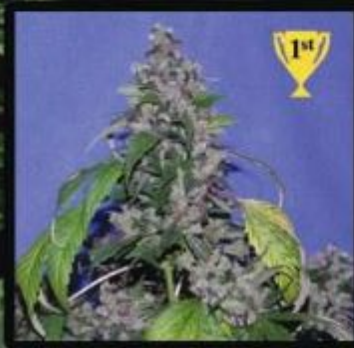
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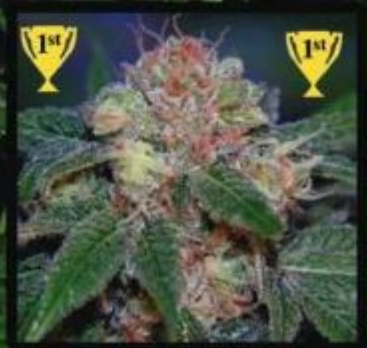
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Jinn	\$85
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IN A STATE THAT HAS WEATHERED SOME DEVASTATING ECONOMIC HITS OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, A THRIVING CANNABIS INDUSTRY HAS TAKEN ROOT. UNFORTUNATELY, POLITICIANS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ARE NOW TRYING TO DISMANTLE MICHIGAN'S MEDICAL-MARIJUANA PROGRAM. BUT THE STATE'S TOUGH, SAVVY ACTIVISTS ARE FIGHTING BACK. STORY & PHOTOS BY DAN SKYE

MICHIGAN HANGS IN



So much has been written about the tragedy of Detroit. Every manner of urban ill has beset this once-great city: massive unemployment, blight beyond comprehension, rampant crime, decades of political corruption. Understandably, many of the residents have fled: Over the past 10 years, Detroit's population has plunged 25 percent and now stands at just over 700,000—in a city that once numbered close to two million.

But pride still exists here. People remember. Detroit was once a wealthy, vibrant city, the world's auto capital, a workingman's town with great sports teams. Witness Michigan's reaction to last year's Super Bowl commercial, which amounted to an honest, gritty love letter to the city. It



The staff of Helping Hand Compassion Club.

featured Eminem driving a Chrysler down Woodward Avenue. When he gets out of the car and declares, "This is the Motor City, and this is what we do," many residents of the city—and the state—were moved to tears.

Detroit may be the most tangible evidence of the severe economic downturn that Michigan has undergone—in which manufacturing's share of the state's economy has shrunk to 18.4 percent—but the psychological toll on people throughout the state has been profound. So this powerful commercial extolling the greatness of Detroit—and Michigan itself—resonated deeply in Great Lakes country.

"It's a matter of hope," says Steve Audish, who once owned and managed nightclubs and grocery stores in Detroit. "Even



A gorgeous crop of Super Lemon Haze grown by C-4, one of Ann Arbor's finest dispensaries.

though this city has fallen apart, our hearts are still here."

Steve and his partner, Bob Bidawid, operate the Helping Hand Compassion Club in Detroit. It's a popular medical-marijuana facility located in a building that the two have transformed from a dilapidated, abandoned storefront into a sleek, welcoming community hub that provides both medicine and grow equipment. It's one of approximately 30 medical-marijuana dispensaries located in the Greater Detroit area. Statewide, there are over 200.

"Spirits are up," says Bidawid. "True Detroiters believe that something is going to happen. Maybe medical marijuana is the way to go. Maybe it's the new automotive industry."

Well, maybe someday. But there's little doubt that the introduction of a medical-marijuana economy has spiked optimism and caused people to dream again. In the 2008 election, 63 percent of voters approved medical marijuana statewide, and there was no delay in getting the program up and running. The new law specified that patients could cultivate 12 plants and possess 2.5 ounces. Furthermore, registered caregivers could legally grow medicine for up to five patients. The law itself is both specific and wide-ranging, permitting a broad spectrum of patients to legally ingest cannabis medicine. The law reads in part: "Medical use" means the acquisition, possession, cultivation, manufacture, use, internal possession, delivery, transfer, or transportation of marijuana or paraphernalia relating to the administration of marijuana to treat or alleviate a registered qualifying patient's debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated with the debilitating medical condition." But as we all know, life is never easy in matters related to marijuana.

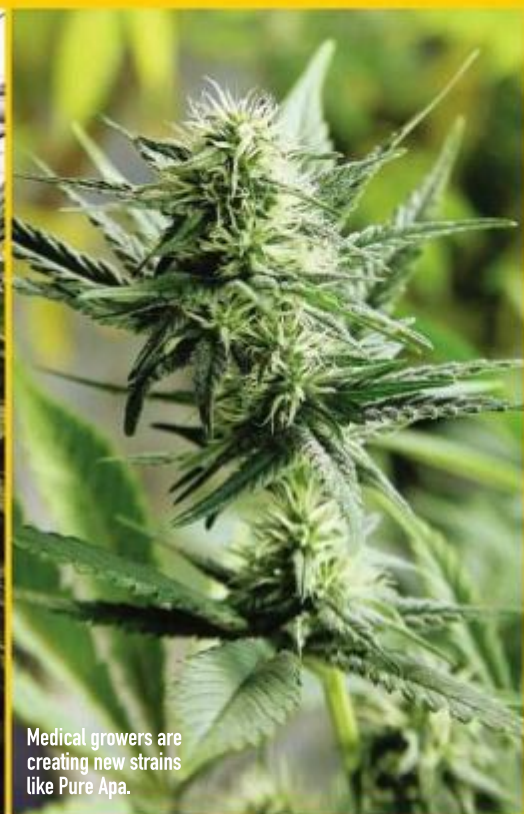
Even though Michigan enjoyed a seemingly clear path to creating a new, home-based industry that would result in thousands of jobs, State Attorney General Bill Schuette filed court papers this year in support of prosecutors in Oakland and

Isabella counties who, in separate cases, have sought clarification of (read: challenged) Michigan's medical-marijuana law.

The law clearly states that unregistered users arrested for marijuana crimes are entitled to present a medical-marijuana defense.

But Schuette insists that the law covers only qualified patients and caregivers who are formally registered with the Michigan Department of Community Health.

A U of M pipe from Puff Danny's Glass Boutique accompanies a pile of Blue Dream buds.



'THERE ARE HUGE LOBBYING ORGANIZATIONS TRYING TO KEEP CORRECTIONS NUMBER ONE.'

A bud of Super OG hangs heavy in a greenhouse.

Medical growers are creating new strains like Pure Apa.

Additionally, Schuette contends that dispensaries cannot legally operate because the law does not specifically address them. But a court in Isabella County has already ruled that, because dispensaries are not expressly addressed by state law, they must be permitted. Schuette is supporting an appeal of that decision.

Because he was an ardent opponent of the medical-marijuana bill when it was introduced on the ballot in 2008, activists were rightfully worried when Schuette decided to run for office. He was subsequently elected, riding in on the Republican tsunami of 2010, when Michigan, a traditionally liberal state, dumped Democrats statewide in frustration over a feeble economy and a high jobless rate. From the moment he took office, Schuette began sniping at the state's medical-marijuana law, the worst incident being in January of this year, when he completely bent over for the DEA.

Last June, the DEA had subpoenaed the medical records of those registered in Michigan's Medical Marijuana Program. However, the Department of Community Health, which oversees the program, refused to comply, citing patient confidentiality and the fact that state employees could be prosecuted for disclosing such information. Unless a court order could be produced, the DEA wasn't going to get what it wanted.

On December 22, the DEA filed a petition to enforce the June order. Two weeks later—mere days after being sworn in—Schuette replied to the subpoena, stating that if it were upheld, he wouldn't contest a court order permitting the DEA to examine the confidential medical records of his own state's constituents. (In June, that court order was granted, but the scope of the DEA's request was narrowed considerably.)

For Jamie Lowell, co-owner of the 3rd Coast Compassion Center in Ypsilanti and an energetic lobbyist, Schuette's conduct is appalling. "This guy allows the Feds to come in and walk all over our initiative," he says. "As attorney general, he should be fighting on our behalf."



Ryan Basoure (right) with budtender Mike Lloyd of CCC in Lansing.

But that doesn't look likely, so the dispensary owners must fight for themselves. Lowell says, "Our biggest challenge is figuring out how to proceed. We're a new industry, so it is paramount that we employ the highest standards and self-regulate."

3rd Coast Compassion Center was the first dispensary in the state and is widely recognized as a leader in the industry and in the political process itself. Darrell Stavros oversees the day-to-day management of the facility, while Lowell bounces back and forth from Lansing, the state capital. The compassion center itself is a former funeral home, but now it houses the Magic Oven medibles kitchen, classrooms for cultivation instruction and legal advice, budtender rooms and various administrative offices.

3rd Coast is also one of the powers behind the Michigan Association of Compassion Clubs (MACC), an organization founded in response to the raids and court challenges. MACC has called

upon the dispensaries of Michigan with the best record of operation to join forces and become part of its stalwart lobbying team.

Currently, MACC has 15 members. Those who join pay a \$1,000 initiation fee and a further \$300 monthly. It's a war chest, but this is no guild fighting simply to protect its members' businesses. Stavros says, "Our fight is to maintain core rights. That means we fight for patients—they're the ones at risk. We fund individual cases, and we have a 100 percent success rate where either charges have been dropped or rulings have been changed."

MACC has also filed an amicus brief to stop the DEA's pursuit of patient records. (The final ruling is still pending.) Essentially, MACC—with some assistance from the ACLU—has been the sole defender of the castle.

Ryan Basoure, who manages Capital City Caregivers in Lansing, is also a member of MACC. As you enter town and drive down Michigan Avenue, several dispensaries line the street. In the distance, the Capitol building looms at the avenue's end. It's both heartening and menacing. Here in the state capital, dispensaries operate openly right on the main drag, supported by Mayor Virg Bernero. Yet other politicians in town have these cannabusinesses in the crosshairs.

"Attorney General Schuette got into the office on the backs of the Tea Party," Basoure notes. "The Tea Party defines itself as a political movement that supposedly supports state sovereignty and lower taxes. But what did Schuette instantly do when he took office? Instantly, he folded to the Feds—then [the Michigan GOP] taxed the pensions of retired folks. He's protecting his own interests. Remember, 27 percent of Michigan's state budget is earmarked for corrections—prisons, guards, law enforcement, prosecutions. There are huge lobbying organizations trying to keep corrections number one." (With that in mind, guess what the most common probation violation is? Testing positive for pot—which is obviously great for the corrections business.)

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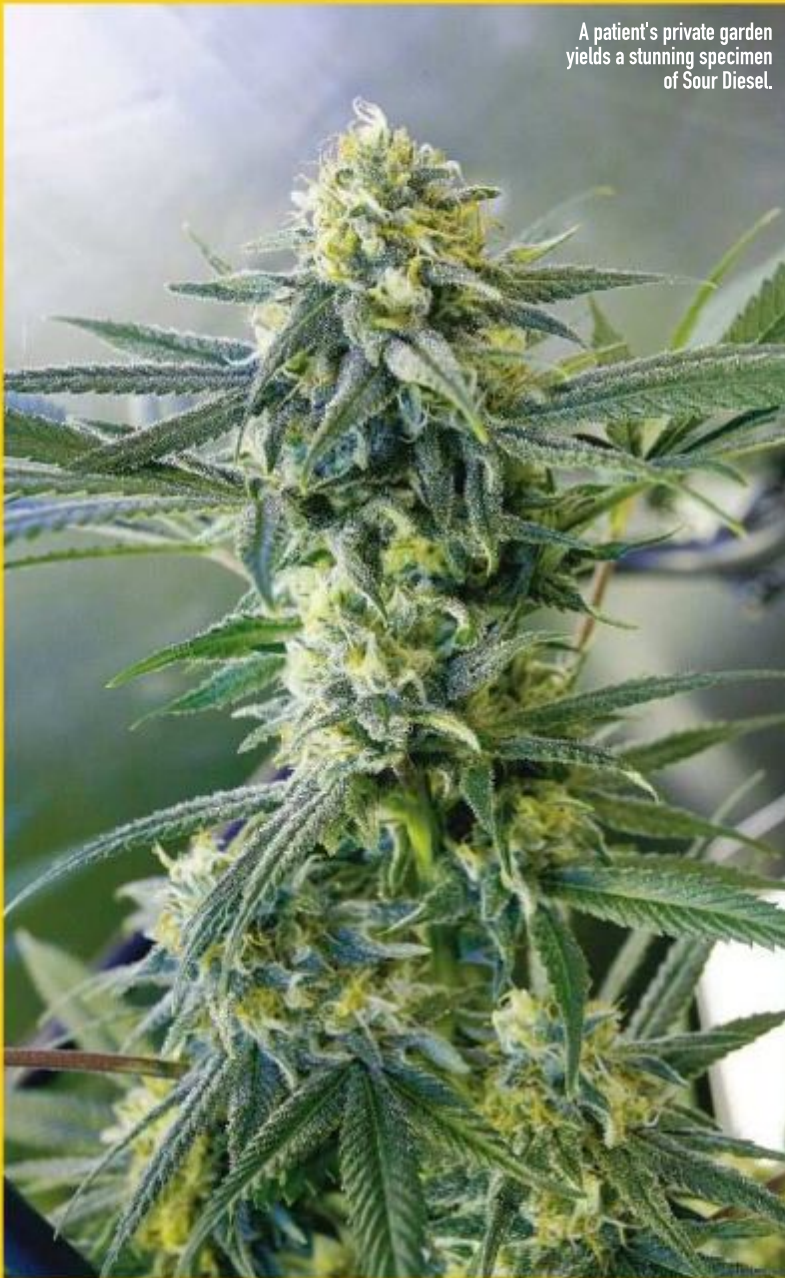
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A cultivator works with clones.

ance with the law, they lose their ability to make a medical-marijuana defense. (And even something as trivial as an unlocked growroom door can qualify as noncompliance.) Moreover, prosecutors are fighting even the mention of the term "medical marijuana" in court, which



Dennis Alexander, star medibles chef of the Magic Oven.

has resulted in busloads of protesters arriving on court days.

What's been lost in the battle is the good news that dispensaries produce. Jobs are being created, properties are being rented or bought again, and ancillary businesses like grow shops are proliferating. Most importantly, 50,000 people are benefiting from good medicine. In Lansing, where Capital City Caregivers operates, Michigan Avenue used to be a sad, scarred stretch of road. Ryan Basore says his building was vacant for eight years. "There was 60 percent vacancy when we opened," he recalls. "Now there's 15 percent vacancy. Restaurants are opening and, on Michigan State home-game days, this neighborhood is booming again."

The top dispensaries claim that only they can screw up the program—and dispensaries are now under the microscope. As a result, MMAC encourages the industry to be not just politically involved, but also—and more importantly—to conduct itself responsibly and stay in strict compliance to protect this precious law.

The best dispensaries have invested considerable time and energy in creating the proper venue for medical consultations. These facilities aren't sterile; instead, they're clean and thoughtfully decorated—private, yet still inviting. It's in their best interests to carry top strains that are safe and free of contaminants. Most dispensaries deal only with known, reliable cultivators or else operate and monitor their own grow operations. But the daily parade of sellers bringing their wares for possible purchase never ends. When asked how often these kinds of transactions occur, dispensary owners and budtenders respond that they happen very rarely—unless the medicine can top what a dispensary is currently offering, what's the point?

PROSECUTORS ARE FIGHTING EVEN THE MENTION OF THE TERM "MEDICAL MARIJUANA" IN COURT.

"Follow the money," says Charmie Gholson, editor of *The Midwest Cultivator*, a Michigan-based cannabis trade journal. "Michigan has some of the most egregious forfeiture laws in the country. Seizing property is how law enforcement boosts their budgets."

According to *Policing for Profit*, a study released last year by the libertarian, nonprofit Institute of Justice, "government at every level is in on the take and the problem is growing." The report demonstrates that legal procedures make civil forfeiture relatively easy for most governments and difficult for many property owners to fight. In effect, a person's property is "arrested," often without actual charges being filed. And even if the property seized wasn't purchased or used in relation to criminal activity, it's still up to the owner to provide proof of this fact.

"Our results show that law enforcement is acting in pursuit of profit," says Marian Williams, assistant professor of government and justice studies at Appalachian State University and a co-author of the report. "Agencies are using federal law as a loophole to circumvent more restrictive and less profitable state laws,"

Welcome to Michigan, which received a D-minus in the study.

Most forfeiture cases are drug-related, and most of those involve marijuana. However, as Jamie Lowell points out, "our medical-marijuana law put a big wrinkle in efforts to get that money."

But that hasn't stopped Oakland County, which has ignored the law and pursued medical-marijuana cases aggressively. A number of paramilitary-style raids have been conducted, and innocent patients have had their possessions looted by the cops. As an example of their zeal, county drug agents even created phony state medical cards to gain access to Clinical Relief, a compassion center in Ferndale.

The county maintains that if caregivers or patients are not in compli-

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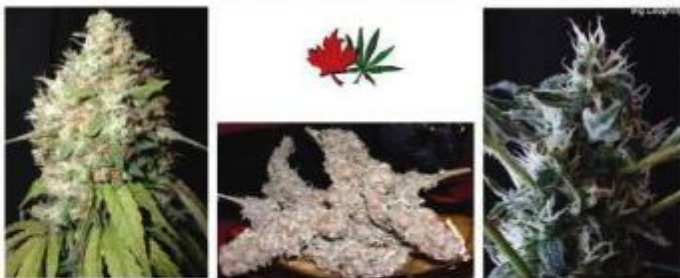
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Darrel Stavros of 3rd Coast Compassion Center.

‘OUR ONLY RECOURSE IS TO DEFEND THE LAW. THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS BLAST STRAIGHT AHEAD.’
—CHUCK REAM

But when they do happen, it’s for one reason: profit, pure and simple. As a result, unscrupulous dispensaries—the quick-buck outfits—can impede or endanger the success of the industry as a whole.

Many in the industry have been especially perturbed by out-of-state growers arriving at their shops and offering weed at bargain-basement prices. The sellers are predominantly from California and Oregon selling outdoor crops. Last fall and winter, pot was being offered at \$2,200 to \$2,500 per pound, whereas Michigan growers commonly sell pounds in the \$4,000 range. Obviously, there’s no quality control under these circumstances, since no one can know how the cannabis was cultivated—and the savings are rarely passed on to consumers. As a result, dispensaries that buy out-of-state marijuana are destabilizing their own industry and putting legal caregivers out of work.

Some activists say the best thing to do right now is to hang tight, do everything by the book, and hope for favorable clarifications from the state in the future. But Chuck Ream, one of Michigan’s most articulate and clear-headed activists, is adamantly opposed to such a submissive posture.

“There is no holding pattern,” he states firmly. “Our only recourse is to defend the law. The only thing we can do is blast straight ahead. The legislature hasn’t acted yet; we have time to get entrenched on the ground.”

Ream is a former kindergarten teacher of 33 years. He graduated magna cum laude from law school but credits marijuana with putting him on the proper path. He was responsible in 2004 for keeping Ann Arbor’s legendary pot-possession law (in which busts result in a mere \$25 fine) on the books, and he now runs MedMar A2 Compassionate Health Care, a spacious, airy dispensary in Ann Arbor that is also a member of MACC. In this progressive city, home of the University of Michigan, Ream has led the charge in striving to maintain the integrity and spirit of the state’s law here.

In May, Ann Arbor’s City Council actually decided against requiring medical-marijuana facilities to apply for licenses. The number of dispensaries in

the city has been capped at 20, but for those who want to grow outside their homes—such as at compassion centers—licenses will not be required, nor will there be zoning restrictions. City Council members even stated that they would like to see even *less* regulation of medical marijuana.

Ream hopes to see other places follow Ann Arbor’s example and make safe access to medical marijuana a part of their city charter, as Ann Arbor has done. Of course, it helps to have a coalition of outstanding local dispensaries working to accomplish this, and Ann Arbor boasts many—such as the homey Ganja Mama’s Tree City Health Collective, or the tightly run C-4 dispensary, or the well-appointed compassion center known as OM of Medicine, located right on Main Street.

But the opposition to the state’s medical-marijuana law remains formidable. The Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys has even encouraged cities to file ordinances rejecting medical marijuana—in effect to break the law, which certainly keeps attorneys in business. Also, sitting judges are deliberately obfuscating the issue, stating that the law itself is confusing, that voters were misled, and that the Michigan State Supreme Court is the only entity capable of figuring things out—which, obviously, makes patients wary and leaves them wondering: “Am I legal or not?”

Ream calls it pure chicanery, an “anti-democratic, totalitarian power grab” designed to maintain a status quo that criminalizes cannabis users.

“One of the strongest reasons we should end the Drug War is that the effectiveness of law enforcement in solving and preventing crimes has diminished over the past three and a half decades,” he says. “The closure rates for all major crimes—aggravated assault, rape, robbery, murder—have been severely compromised. Instead, law enforcement is chasing people around for their personal behavior.”

Over the course of two and half years, Michigan’s medical-marijuana program has laid down strong foundations, and now it strengthens itself. Politicians who underestimate the resolve of the cannabis industry are becoming reacquainted with the will of the people and what it means. People want to work. People want to improve their lives. Cannabis offers hope on both fronts.

“We are here to stay,” says 3rd Coast Compassion Center’s Darrell Stavros. Sounding a bit like that rapper in that Super Bowl commercial, he adds: “This is what we do.” ✨

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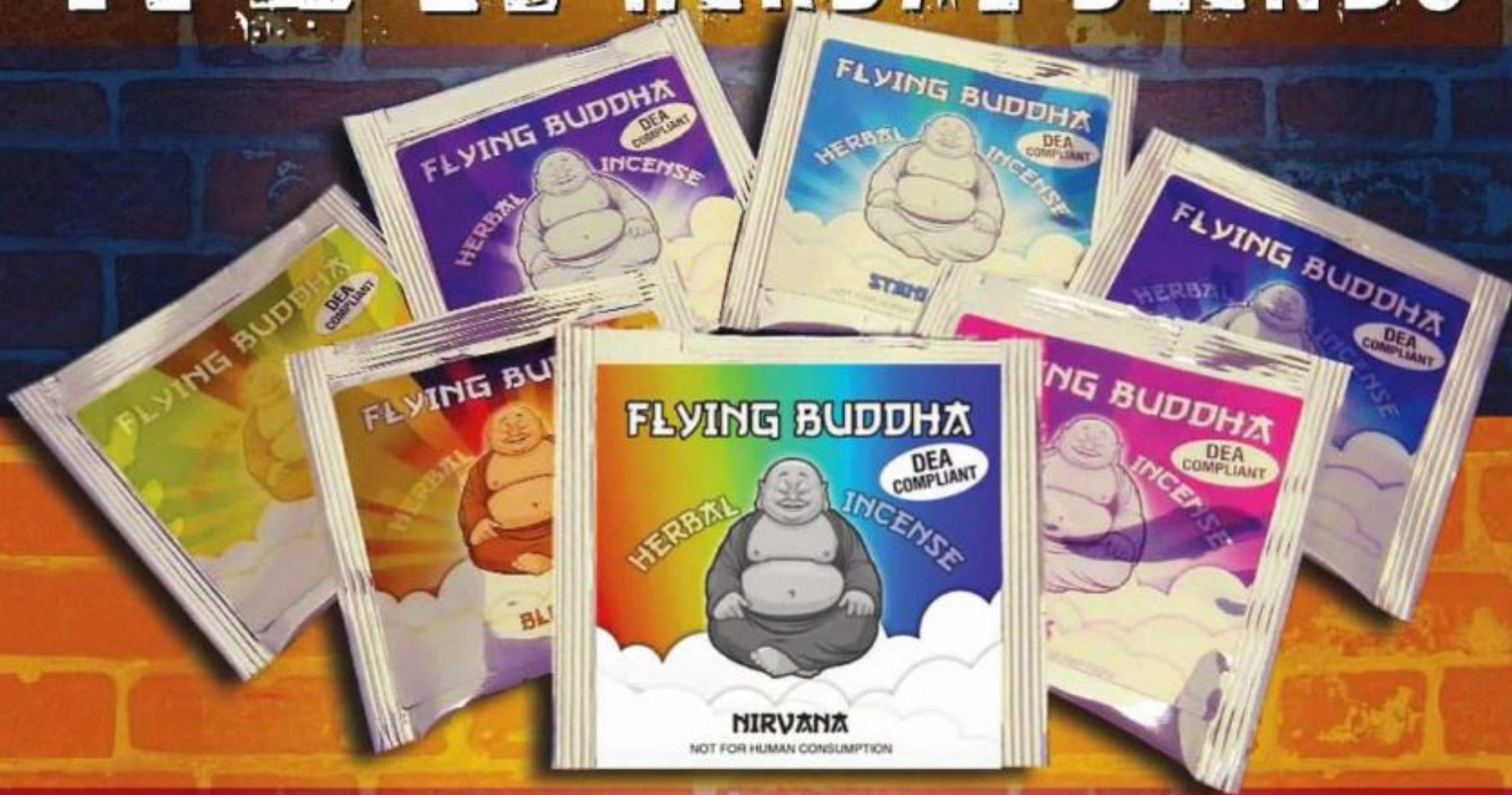
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GOT CUP?

THE 2011 CANNABIS CUP PREVIEW.

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

I've got a sweet gig—but that's an understatement. To be more precise, one of the sweetest parts of my gig is Amsterdam. Not only does the whole HIGH TIMES staff cross the pond every November to throw the biggest pot party in the world, but I get to go there once or twice each summer and get my grow on.

Lately, however, I've been going over just to preview aspects of the upcoming HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. While this started as a cultivation-specific endeavor, it has evolved and morphed into more of a mélange of Cannabis Cup essence. Just like the terpenes and essential oils of a bud, what we're going for here is the full high—everything you need to know about what goes on every year at the Cup and, subsequently, why you gotta make it to Amsterdam at least once (or 10 times) before you leave your earthly shell. So here's a taste of our upcoming 24th (wow!) Annual Cannabis Cup, including the can't-miss coffeeshops, new breeders and strains to test, and various places to Eat. Smoke. Love. This is it: *The Guide*.

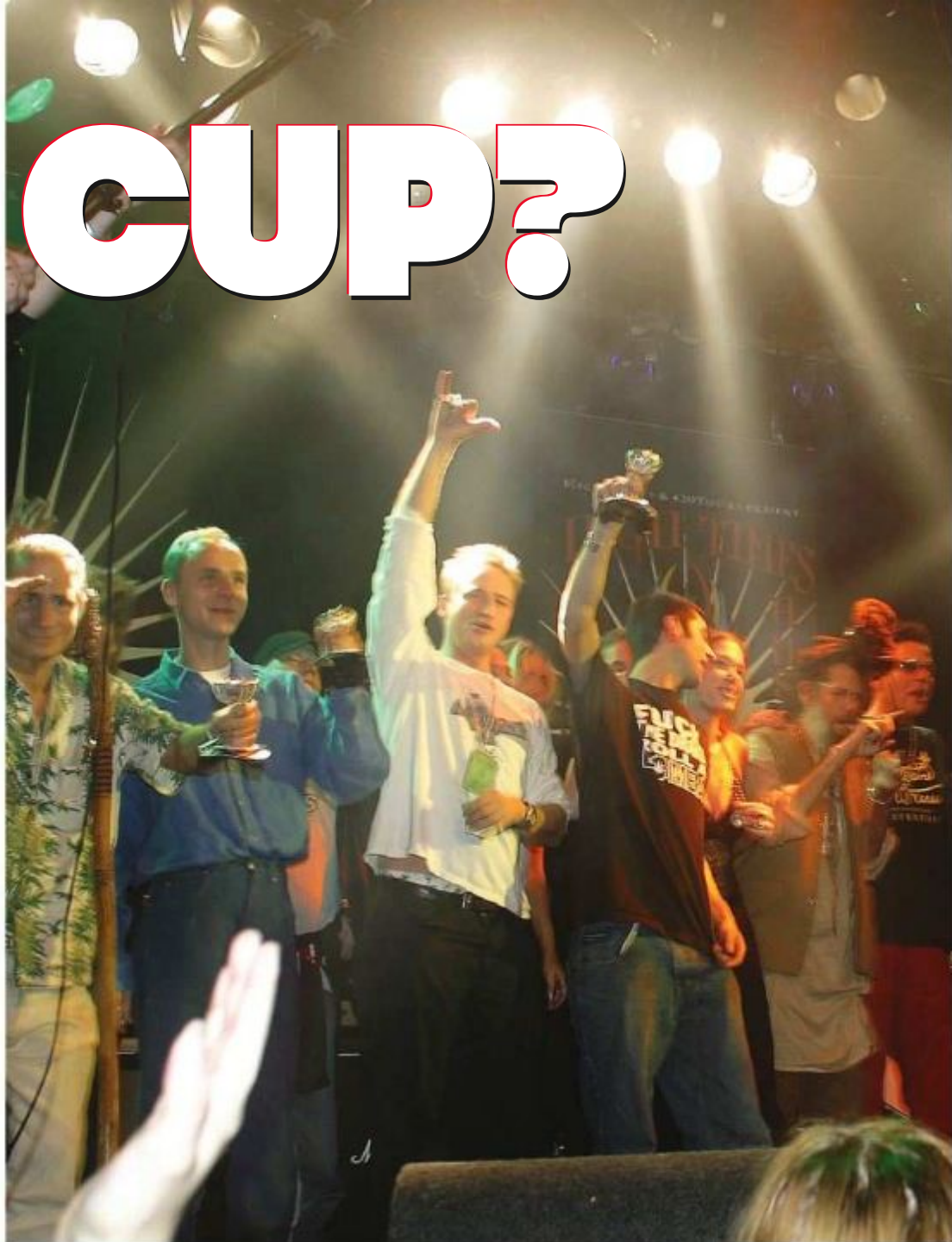
FIRST, HAVE NO WORRIES

There has been much speculation and rumor about the status of cannabis in Amsterdam, the status of tourists and weed, and, more specifically, the status of the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup this year. So allow us to put your fears to rest: The 2011 Cannabis Cup is on! All systems are go, as usual. But ... there may be some problems on the horizon in the coming years.

Backed by the far-right party of anti-immigrant politician Geert Wilders, the new coalition government that came into power last year wants to curb canna-tourism as part of a nationwide program to promote health and fight crime (while also ruining the livelihoods of the tens of thousands of Dutch citizens who make their living entirely from tourism).

Of course, like any political game, this one is subject to change at the drop of a dime, and these efforts most likely will get quashed altogether as the local leaders of Amsterdam (such as the city's current mayor, Eberhard van der Laan) fight off these ridiculous bills, which would kill tourism and effectively render Amsterdam a ghost town.

Currently, the Dutch government is trying to ban tourists from buying cannabis in coffeeshops and impose certain restrictions on its own citizens by the end of 2011. If the new policy actually passes into law, it would roll out in the southern provinces of Holland first (Limburg, Noord-Brabant, Zeeland) and make its way north to Amsterdam and the rest of the country next year. Still, Wilders' party has been trying to do this for decades without success, so most people in Amsterdam remain optimistic. However, if you haven't been to a Cannabis Cup yet, we hate to say it, but you may want to think a bit longer about it this year.



THE HIGH TIMES CANNABIS CUP: A BRIEF HISTORY

These days, there are loads of Cannabis Cup-style competitions going on around the globe, with more than a few happening right here within the borders of the United States. (God bless America.) However, there's only one *true* Cup event that happens every year, and that, of course, is our very own Cannabis Cup in the Mecca of Marijuana—Amsterdam.

Our competition attracts the biggest names and players in cannabis from around the world, crowning a champion in five distinct categories and naming the best marijuana on Earth for the year. The name of *the* contest is the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup ... and it's only a few months away.

Dating back to 1987, the Cannabis Cup was originally created by then HIGH TIMES editor in chief Steve Hager when he became inspired by stories of the "spectacular California harvest festivals of the '70s." In those days, seed breeders were not nearly as prevalent as they are now, and the terms "seed company" and "seed bank" were virtually synonymous (whereas today, seed banks are largely distributors or retailers for many different seed companies or breeders).

In the early days, there were only four clubs competing in the Cup: the Super Sativa Seed Club, the Sensi Seed Club, the Seed Bank and Cultivator's Choice. Nevil, one of the legendary godfathers of cannabis genetics, founded the Seed Bank and quickly bought out Cultivator's Choice, working with those genetics and using some of them to dominate the first few years of competition.

By the fourth Cup (1991), coffeeshops began entering thanks to the targeting of seed companies around the world via a DEA crackdown known as Operation Green Merchant, which forced many of them to go underground and withdraw (temporarily) from the competition. However, this opened the door for the public to join in on the voting, and thus began the modern era of the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. For the first time, anyone could come to Amsterdam and legally sample and vote on the best strains in the Netherlands. As time passed, the Cup grew to embrace what have truly become the *world's* best strains, with seed companies from all over the planet coming to compete.



Parties every night, a huge expo every day and pot everywhere... but at the end of the week it's all about one thing: Winning a Cannabis Cup!

JUDGING THE CANNABIS CUP

COFFEESHOPS & YOU

Today, the main event, known simply as *the Cannabis Cup*, is composed of cannabis entries from Amsterdam's most elite coffeeshops. Cannabis Cup judges—meaning you and anyone else from the general public who purchases a judge's pass—visit each of these coffeeshops individually (as in a pub crawl) to purchase, smoke and judge that shop's entry.

At the end of the week, the judges return to the Cup's main expo hall to privately cast their votes, and the winner is crowned the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup champion. During the entire week of the Cup, events are held at our main convention center, including musical acts, grow seminars, talk shows and stand-up comedy. By purchasing a judge's pass, each person is allowed entry into the expo hall every day of the week, as well as access to all of the major parties and concerts held nightly at various venues around Amsterdam. At the end of the week, everyone reconvenes at the HIGH TIMES party, which includes a concert and the awards ceremony.

SEED COMPANIES & THE BREEDERS' CUPS

Beyond the Cannabis Cup champion, a number of other awards are handed out, including perhaps the most prestigious of Cups from a breeder's standpoint: the *Indica*, *Sativa* and Hybrid Cups in the Breeder/Seed Company category.

When the onslaught of seed companies returned to the market, HIGH TIMES decided to incorporate these specialized categories of competition into the Cup, because Amsterdam also attracts the world's best growers and breeders of cannabis. However, it should be noted that some coffeeshops have their own seed companies and subsequently enter the Breeders' Cups as well—not to mention the two hash categories they can also enter as seed companies. This is why you'll sometimes see one name or strain winning more than one award.

Only breeders with seed companies can enter these Cup competitions, as the winning strains' seeds must be readily available to the public for purchase. This year, we have a new wrinkle to add to the world's foremost cannabis competition—our new scoring system, which will be used by our expert panel of judges to score the entries in the breeders' categories.

Implementing Version 1.3 after trial runs this past April at our Denver Medical Cannabis Cup and in June at our San Francisco Medical Cannabis Cup, the goal—as always—is to keep the competition as fair, accurate and transparent as possible. So here's a sneak preview of how the expert judging will be conducted for the Breeders' Cups.

CATEGORIES

This year, also for the first time, we'll have five categories for the Breeders' Cups: not just the traditional Cups for *indicas*, *sativas*, import hash and Neder (domestic) hash, but also a new category just for hybrids.

As a result, we're going to attempt to limit the *sativa* and *indica* entries to genetic lineages that are greater than 70 percent in each putative species. Entries from dispensaries in the *Indica* and *Sativa* categories will be required to provide the parentage back to the grandparents (two generations) to ensure that they're being properly categorized. Hybrids, therefore, will count as any combination of *indica* and *sativa* below 70 percent (i.e., 60/40, 50/50, etc.).

This year, we'll be capping each category at 40 entries. We will also be asking seed companies and breeders to complete a more comprehensive entry form containing information about their entries, such as lineage, flowering time, nutrient regimen and grow system (just to name a few).



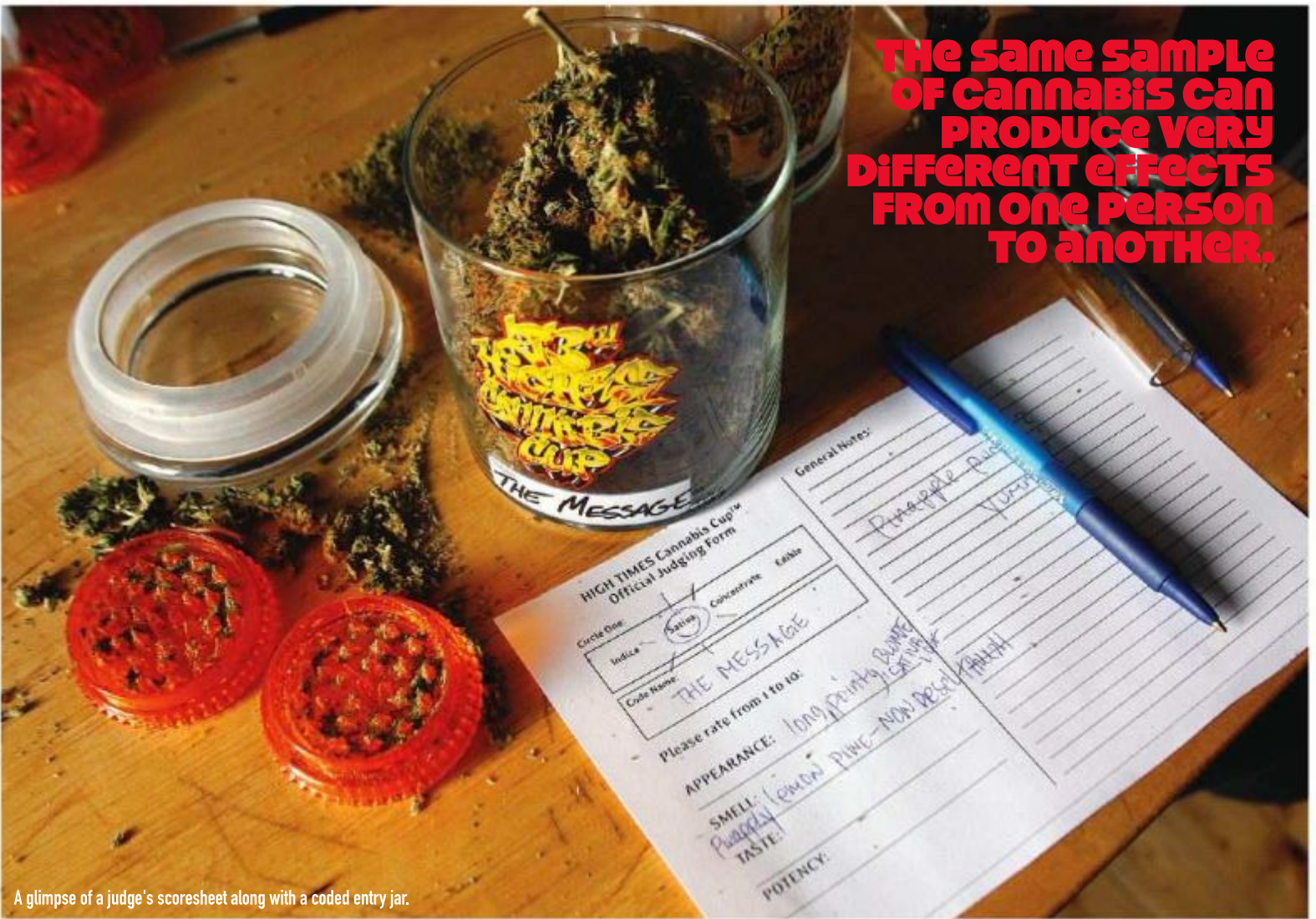
Danko and fellow judges get down to business.

JUDGES

The expert judges in the Breeders' Cups are selected in a very straightforward manner: For each category, one expert member from the HIGH TIMES staff will act as the coordinator for a specific category. The coordinator will head a team of two "official judges" who will each be an expert or professional from the cannabis industry.

The official judges will first convene a week before the awards ceremony is scheduled to take place. At that time, they'll get to meet their counterparts and receive their judges' kits, which will include all the samples for their category as well as the official score sheets. After a brief tutorial on how the new scoring system works, the judges will have a full week to sample and score their entries.

The judges can smoke and test the entries with their counterparts or tackle the task solo. Judges are also free to solicit any outside opinions or consultations they deem fit. At the end of the week, the judges submit their score sheets to the official HIGH TIMES judging director. These score sheets will be submitted at the Judges' Dinner, where all of the judges convene to compare notes, submit their final tallies and find out who this year's winners will be.



THE SAME SAMPLE OF CANNABIS CAN PRODUCE VERY DIFFERENT EFFECTS FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER.

A glimpse of a judge's scoresheet along with a coded entry jar.



At week's end thousands of judges return to the expo hall to cast their votes.

how well it was flushed of impurities during its finish.

The five categories on the qualitative score sheet will look something like this: Visual Aesthetics, Aroma, Taste, Stone/High (for *indica* and *sativa*, respectively) and Flush/Burnability.

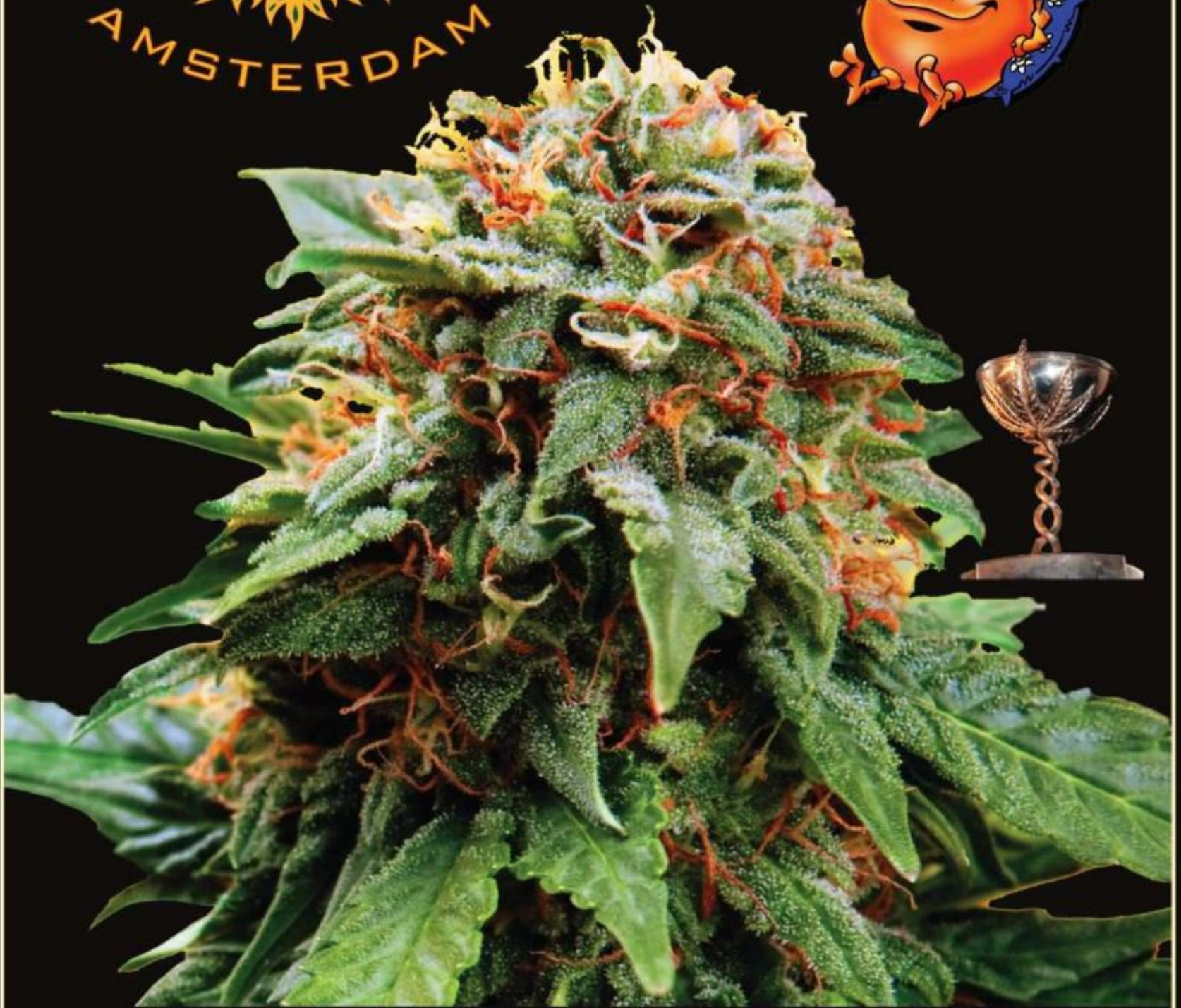
The three categories on the quantitative side will look something like this: Potency (THC), Medicinal Value (CBD) and Storage/Cure/Age (CBN). The quantitative scoring will be conducted by the judging director using the results from the lab testing. These results will not be released to the judges until after all of the official score sheets have been submitted.

Each category will be scored 1 through 5, with 5 being the highest possible score. Categories will be weighted so that the characteristics that most define ideal cannabis count more in the final tally. The weighted multiplier will not be given to judges until they convene at the Judges' Dinner to tabulate their score sheets with the judging director. The highest possible

HIGH TIMES CANNABIS CUP CHAMPIONS

- 1988 - Skunk #1, Cultivator's Choice
- 1989 - Early Pearl/Skunk #1 x Northern Lights #5/Haze, The Seed Bank
- 1990 - Northern Lights #5, The Seed Bank
- 1991 - Skunk, Free City
- 1992 - Haze x Skunk #1, Homegrown Fantasy
- 1993 - Haze x Northern Lights #5, Sensi Seed Bank
- 1994 - Jack Herer, Sensi Seed Bank
- 1995 - White Widow, The Green House
- 1996 - White Russian, De Dampkring
- 1997 - Peace Maker, De Dampkring
- 1998 - Super Silver Haze, The Green House
- 1999 - Super Silver Haze, The Green House
- 2000 - Blueberry, The Noon
- 2001 - Sweet Tooth, Barney's
- 2002 - Morning Glory, Barney's
- 2003 - Hawaiian Snow, The Green House
- 2004 - Amnesia Haze, Barney's
- 2005 - Willie Nelson, Barney's
- 2006 - Arjan's Ultra Haze, The Green House
- 2007 - G-13 Haze, Barney's
- 2008 - Super Lemon Haze, The Green House
- 2009 - Super Lemon Haze, The Green House
- 2010 - Tangerine Dream, Barney's

score an entry can receive is 100 points. The two scores from the qualitative and quantitative score sheets will then be combined for a total score for each entry from each individual judge. The average of the three judges' scores will determine the winning entries.



Tangerine Dream

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THE CAN'T-MISS COFFEESHOPS OF CUP XXIV



Katsu is the aficionado's choice for real Amsterdam smoke.



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KATSU

If there's one coffeeshop you make an effort to get to this year, let it be Katsu. Katsu offers one of the largest menus of any coffeeshop in the city. With 27 different cannabis strains and 18 kinds of hash (and these numbers will likely be higher during the Cup), this place is well worth the visit!

Intimate, colorful and casual, Katsu is located in an area of Amsterdam known as De Pijp ("the Pipe"), about a 20-minute walk from Dam Square in the city center. At night, Katsu is a social hub, while by day it's cozy and laid-back. The shop sits on a quiet pedestrian street lined with trees and cafés adjacent to Sarphatipark and close to the Museumplein, making the trip even more worthwhile if you're touring around town.

Perhaps the best aspect of Katsu is its common-sense approach to sales. Unlike traditional methods of selling cannabis, where the cost of a gram varies depending on quality, Katsu employs a system in which all prices are constant—either 10 or 20 euros—and the weight of the bag (anywhere from 0.9 to 5 grams) varies depending on the quality of herb being purchased. It's a very unique system, but one that allows Katsu to have prepackaged bags of cannabis awaiting customers, as opposed to budtenders having to weigh out each order individually. This ensures that the line at the bud bar is very short, keeping customers happy and the coffeeshop less crammed with people standing around waiting to get their goodies. Ten euros buys you a gram of Lavender or Big Buddha Cheese, while 20 euros can score up to 5 grams of blond Moroccan hash. Other popular strains include Northern Lights #5, OG Kush, Nevil's Haze and landrace Jamaican.

All in all, Katsu is a top-tier coffeeshop with a friendly and knowledgeable staff that has no qualms about offering suggestions, explaining the menu, or just chatting about marijuana and Amsterdam in general. The locals who frequent the establishment are usually transplants from other countries, and a quick glance will tell you that they've been in the Dam for a long time, which is always a clear sign you're in the right spot.



Stone's Café in the heart of the 'Dam.

STONES CAFÉ COFFEESHOP

Stones Café Coffeeshop is quite literally a diamond in the rough. Located in the raucous and rowdy heart of the city, among streets packed with bars and coffeeshops and adjacent to the infamous red-light district, Stones Café is a dream come true for the party-going pothead. Stones is also among the rare places that offer both a coffeeshop where you can buy high-grade cannabis and a bar just a few doors down (see the Top 10 Bars list at the end of this article) where you can drink *and* smoke said high-grade herb.

As far as the smoking goes, Stones Café boasts a cannabis menu of around 25 items, with a split of about 15/10 weed to hash. The cannabis is always above the Amsterdam average, with menu regulars such as Dr. Grinspoon, OG Kush and a nice selection of pure water-extraction bubble hashes. Still, one of the more popular sellers at Stones Café is the fresh-baked Space Cakes (*not* for the faint-hearted).

For Americans coming over to Amsterdam, Stones is a favorite destination as it's largely English-speaking, being partly owned and operated by UK natives. Great music is always playing, and if you're looking to make some new friends, you can't beat its central location. But what keeps most customers coming back are the friendly staffers and easygoing ambiance of this lounge-y shop right in the center of coffeeshop heaven. Don't worry—you couldn't miss this one if you tried!



The newly opened Voyagers is a coffeeshop and hotel.

VOYAGERS

The name says it all. This fiery little coffeeshop is literally built for the voyager, with a host of inexpensive, communal-style rooms for rent directly above the shop. A newcomer to the Cannabis Cup, Voyagers is perfectly situated directly across the street from Amsterdam's Central Station and an easy first stop for those coming into town via train or starting their coffeeshop crawl at the city's center.

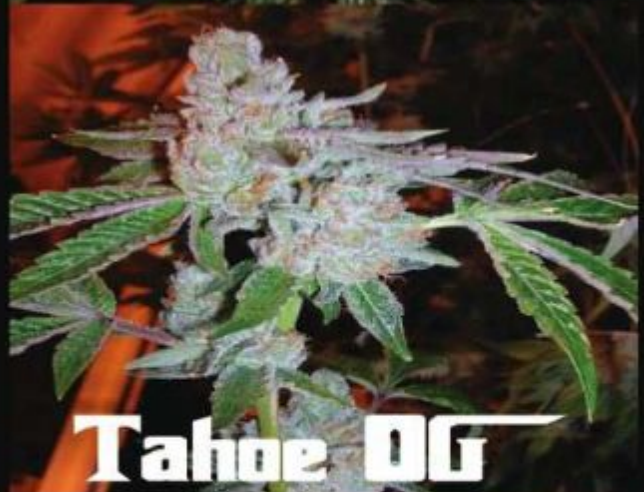
Packed daily with a young, trendy crowd, this spot is a favorite of the wanderer who wants to sit down and take a load off. The menu has been extensively overhauled of late, and Voyagers expects to make a serious run at the Cup in 2011. The menu includes fan favorites ranging from chronic Diesels to rarities like King Kong, and Voyagers also stocks strains from All-Star Genetics—another up-and-coming seed company that took home a Cup in 2009 (third place in the *Indica* Cup with Kushdee). We expect big things from both All-Star and Voyagers in 2011.

Another Brit-owned shop in the A-dam, the music here is always up, with some of the best electronic and reggae beats in town. And this year, just for the Cup, Voyagers will be running special package deals for Cup-goers that include rooms at super-reasonable rates (35 to 70 euros per night), free Internet (in the rooms and coffeeshop), and smoking boat trips down the canals (*highly* recommended). Whatever it is you're into, you'll likely to find it at Voyagers, making this coffeeshop a seriously good time.

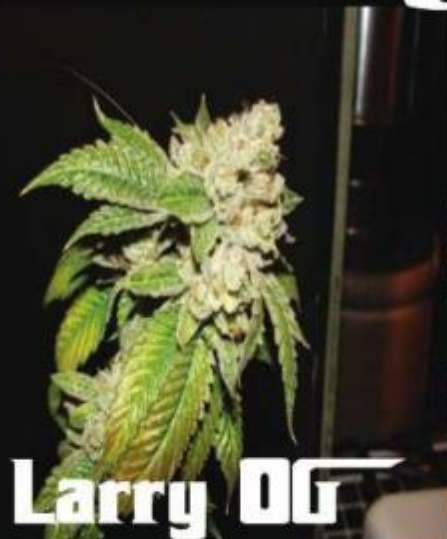
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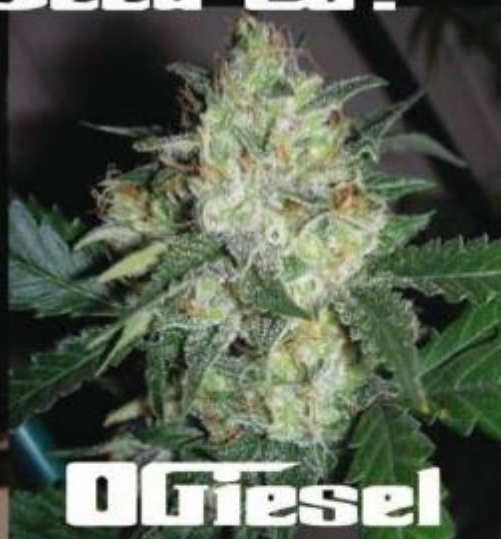
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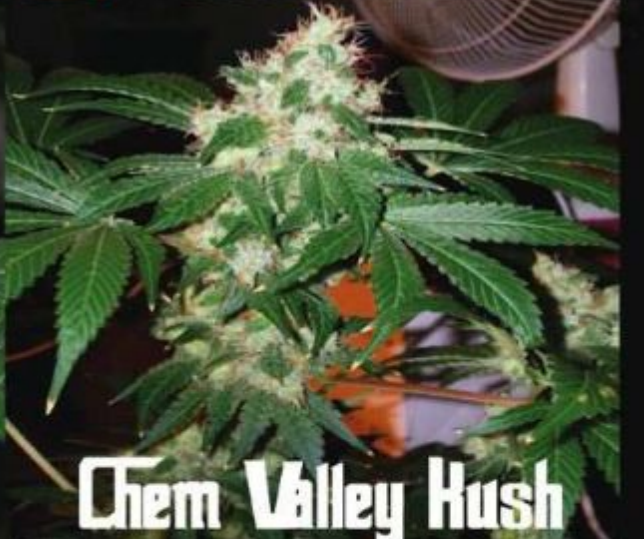
Tahoe OG



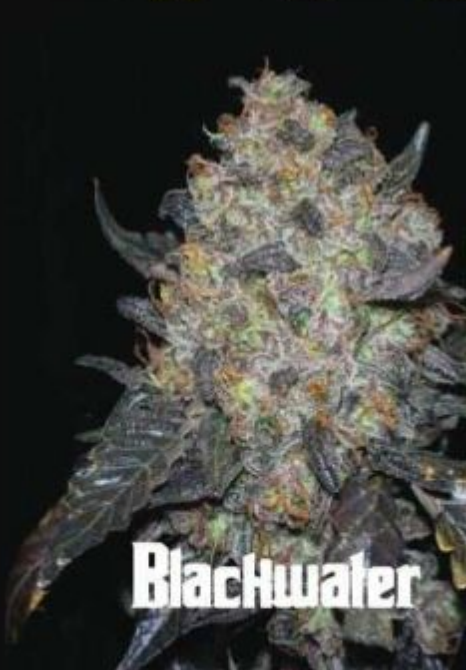
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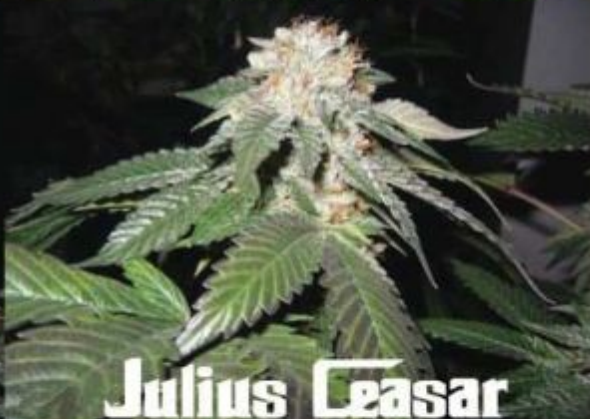
OG Giesel



Chem Valley Kush



Blackwater



Julius Caesar



Sour OG

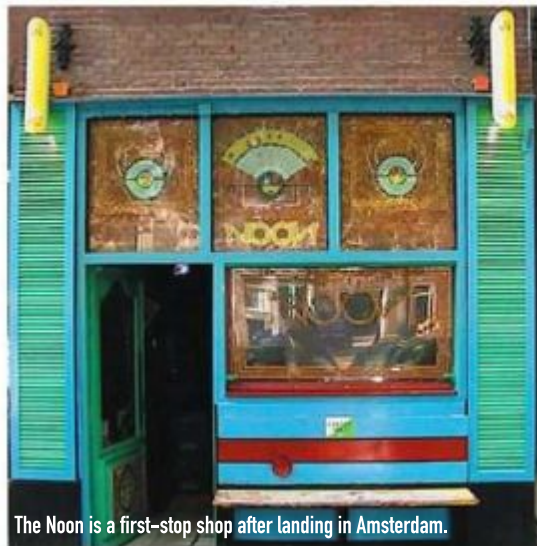
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THE NOON

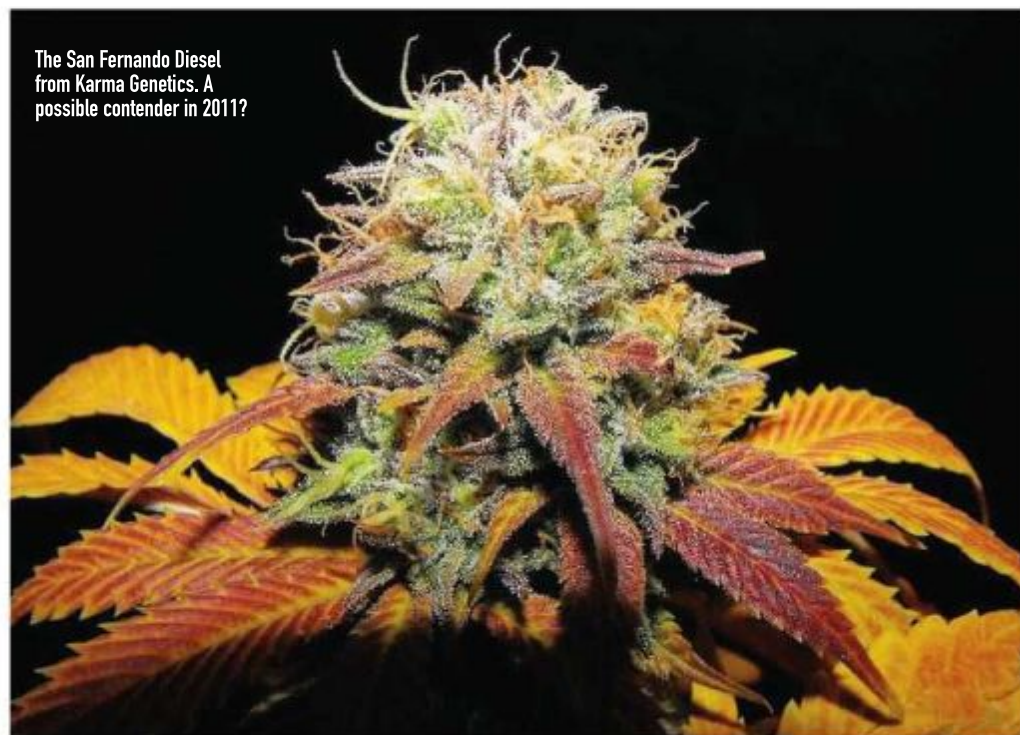
A favorite with the HIGH TIMES staff, The Noon is a tiny coffeeshop just off the Leidseplein that has phenomenal cannabis all year round, but especially during the Cannabis Cup. Known for its delicious Blueberry buds (a Cup winner in 2000 and 2001), last year The Noon had a Sleestak that was out of this world. It's rare to see HT staffers dropping good coin on herb in Amsterdam (think about it—why would we?), but when we get to The Noon, hundreds of euros are spent in a matter of minutes.

Although it has a smaller menu than most coffeeshops and is more of a local hangout and bud-buying depot, there are always one or two very good strains available here. Go in and ask the budtender for a quick smelling tour of the inventory and you'll soon find what you're looking for. To make a good thing even better, The Noon is just down the street from the Waterhole (see the Top 10 Bars list at the end of this article), a place that allows both drinking and smoking herb.

Priding itself on good genetics and well-cured buds, The Noon is a coffeeshop that won't settle for run-of-the-mill Amsterdam herb. These guys are serious about their product—and when you're dealing with thousands of Cup-goers every November, those are our kind of people!



The Noon is a first-stop shop after landing in Amsterdam.



The San Fernando Diesel from Karma Genetics. A possible contender in 2011?

NEW SEED COMPANY PROFILE: KARMA GENETICS

After taking home a Cup (in a very close race) in 2010, Karma Genetics figures to make a big run this year, challenging the usual stalwarts with a new and (for Amsterdam) exotic blend of boutique strains. Founded and run by a man named Karma somewhere in the south of Holland, Karma Genetics works closely with breeders around the world (including the US) to create new, fresh genetic lines of today's most popular varieties.

Last year, Karma took third place in the *Indica* Cup with White OG, his cross of OG Kush and the fabled strain dubbed The White. In 2011, he's working with various Jack Herer and Sour Diesel phenotypes (including a San Fernando Diesel) as well as one interesting breed known as Happy Brother.

But what really piques our interest in Karma is his philosophy on growing. An all-organic farmer, Karma believes in the power of nature and in keeping his gardens as natural as possible. When working with good genetics, this approach often unlocks the plants' fullest potential and creates buds that have the true essence of each strain's flavor, aroma and high.

On top of this, Karma isn't a big fan of feminized seeds, believing (as many do) that feminizing seed crops is detrimental to the evolution of the cannabis gene pool and can have disastrous results on the preservation of landrace strains or older, prized lineages. For a breeder, this philosophy is understandable—but for the owner of a seed company, it's one that presents its own unique challenges, as market demands and the constraints of doing business are generally hard to resist.

Still, Karma himself is as dedicated and honest as they come, and Karma Genetics has as much promise—if not more—as any seed company that's come into play in the last five years. ✨

TOP 10 BARS

WHERE YOU CAN DRINK & SMOKE WEED

What many Amsterdam visitors often don't realize is that coffeeshops selling cannabis cannot, by law, also sell alcohol. Bummer ... but that doesn't mean you can't drink your booze and smoke your weed in plenty of other 420-friendly establishments! Here's our list of the top 10 places that will let you blaze away while enjoying some sweet nectar at their bar.

10) NES-Cafe - Located on Nes just off Dam Square in the city center, this pool-hall-style bar allows for beers, joints and a little scratch.

9) Bar Remember - Hey, remember that time we bought weed legally in Amsterdam and then went in that bar and started doing shots, and then we rolled a blunt and then ... uh ...

8) The Bittersweet - This nightclub really gets pumping after midnight. A trendy spot with loads of single guys *and* gals (seriously—this DJ factory has two floors, plus a "special" smoking room on the top floor).

7) Salty Dog - This one is across the street from the Grey Area, which you will certainly visit if you're at the Cup. So if you need some liquid courage, mosey on across the street and smoke some Grey Area bubble hash while pounding down a pint.

6) Wonder Bar - Ever get stoned and wonder? Well, now you can. The great thing about this place: It's also a hookah bar. Beer. Weed. Hookahs. Do it.

5) Mr. Coco's - Located in Rembrandtplein, this spot not only sells booze and allows smoking, but it also serves food ... Australian food. For a new and unique experience, check out Mr. Coco's!

4) Stones Café Bar - We mentioned this one earlier in our coffeeshop section, so just to reiterate: This UK-vibe bar gets down with a great selection of beer on tap, good music and tons of smoking. Not only that, but it's fairly big inside and centrally located. A must-hit joint.

3) The Waterhole - Located in the Leidseplein, this spot is an old-school, down-and-dirty biker bar that has no qualms about letting the crowd take up while shooting pool and listening to some good ol' rock 'n' roll performed live every night.

2) Barney's Uptown - If you know about cannabis in Amsterdam, you know about Barney's Farm. But did you know that Barney's not only has a coffeeshop, but also a wine bar (which sells Barney's seeds, by the way) and a bar/restaurant? In fact, the bar is right across the street from the coffeeshop (convenient), and you can smoke herb in there all night ... while drinking and eating. Score!

1) Top Secret - No, really, it *is*. This little place is one of Amsterdam's best-kept secrets, and it's where you can find HIGH TIMES staffers together with our local pals, congregating (or, more aptly, lounging around) into the wee hours of the night. But here's a hint for you savvy Cup-goers looking to hang with us late at night: You have to get lost to find us!

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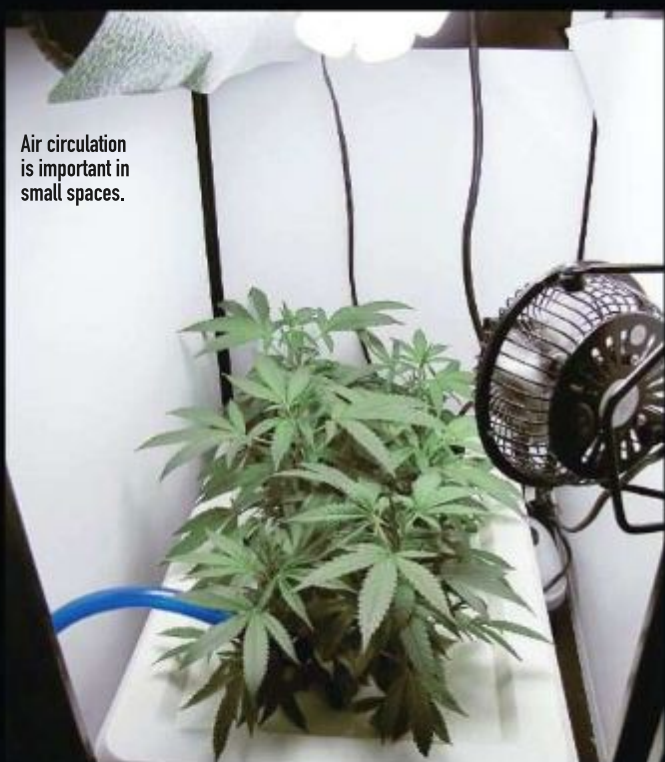
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Air circulation is important in small spaces.



CLEAN IT OUT

The first thing you must do is to remove everything from your chosen closet and clean the floor, walls and ceiling thoroughly with a mild bleach-and-water solution and a new mop. Get a bucket of flat-white paint and roll or brush it on to cover all of the surfaces for the best reflectivity of light, and cover or fill any cracks or holes with joint compound.

You could also line the walls with special reflective foils, but I find they become more trouble than they're worth because of the hot spots in their reflections (as well as the insects that love to hide in the space between the foil and wall). Flat-white paint reflects fine without any extra costs or issues.

When it comes to fans and electronics, it's best to run a tight ship. Rubber and felt gaskets seal leaks and buffer the sounds created by vibrating fans. Also, there's no harm in double-bagging your closet grow with a tent, which tends to trap moisture and deflect heat better than a plain closet, and also provides one more barrier between your skunky secret and a nosy neighbor's nostrils.

Because of the high premium on real estate in your closet, run as much of the power and water controls as you can outside the tight space. Ballasts as well as air and water pumps give off heat and are not best suited to the humid environment your plants enjoy. As a general rule, any space you save by rerouting equipment will be converted into harvest gold at the end of the grow cycle.

This walk-in closet produced several pounds of pot.



Small hydroponic grow kits work well in closet settings.



250-watt or 400-watt HID lights work perfectly in small spaces.

SEPARATE CHAMBERS

If you really want to get the most out of your small space, you need to separate it into two smaller areas: one for vegetative growth, mother plants and cloning, and the other for flowering plants only. The best way to accomplish this is with a shelf placed about one-third of the closet's height from the top. The smaller upper area will be your vegetative space, and the larger, lower two-thirds becomes your flowering area.

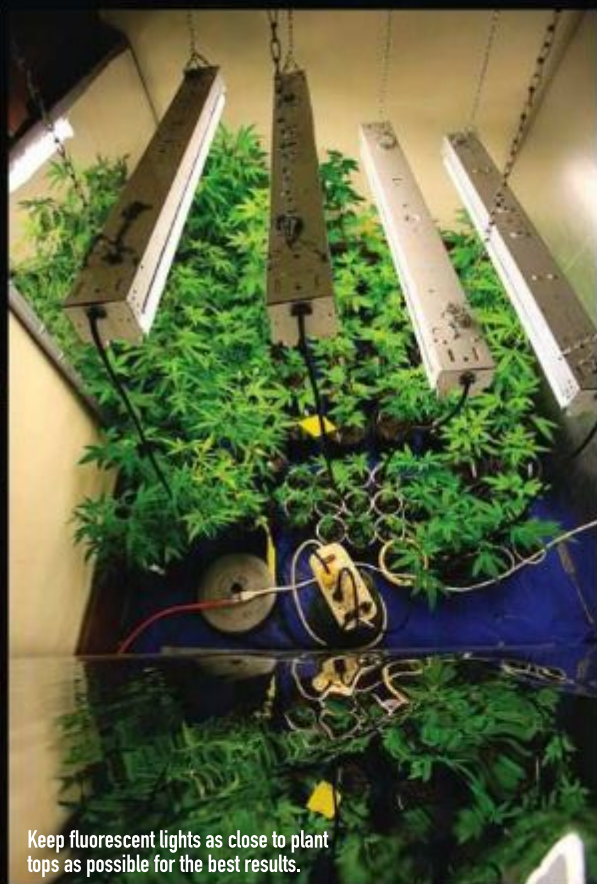
The vegetative area must be completely light-tight, because even a glimmer that seeps into the flowering area when it's supposed to be dark will cause your plants to revert to vegetative growth or freak out and turn into hermaphrodites. These leaks can be avoided by sealing

the vegetative area completely with a dark plastic liner.

Your vegetative area should be lit with fluorescent lighting, such as compact fluorescents or short T5 tubes, which will provide enough light to keep mother plants alive, root cuttings and keep vegging plants thriving early on. With these vegging lights on, get inside your flowering area and make sure no light is leaking into it. In other words, it should be completely pitch black in your budding space—and if it's not, make it so before embarking on your closet grow.

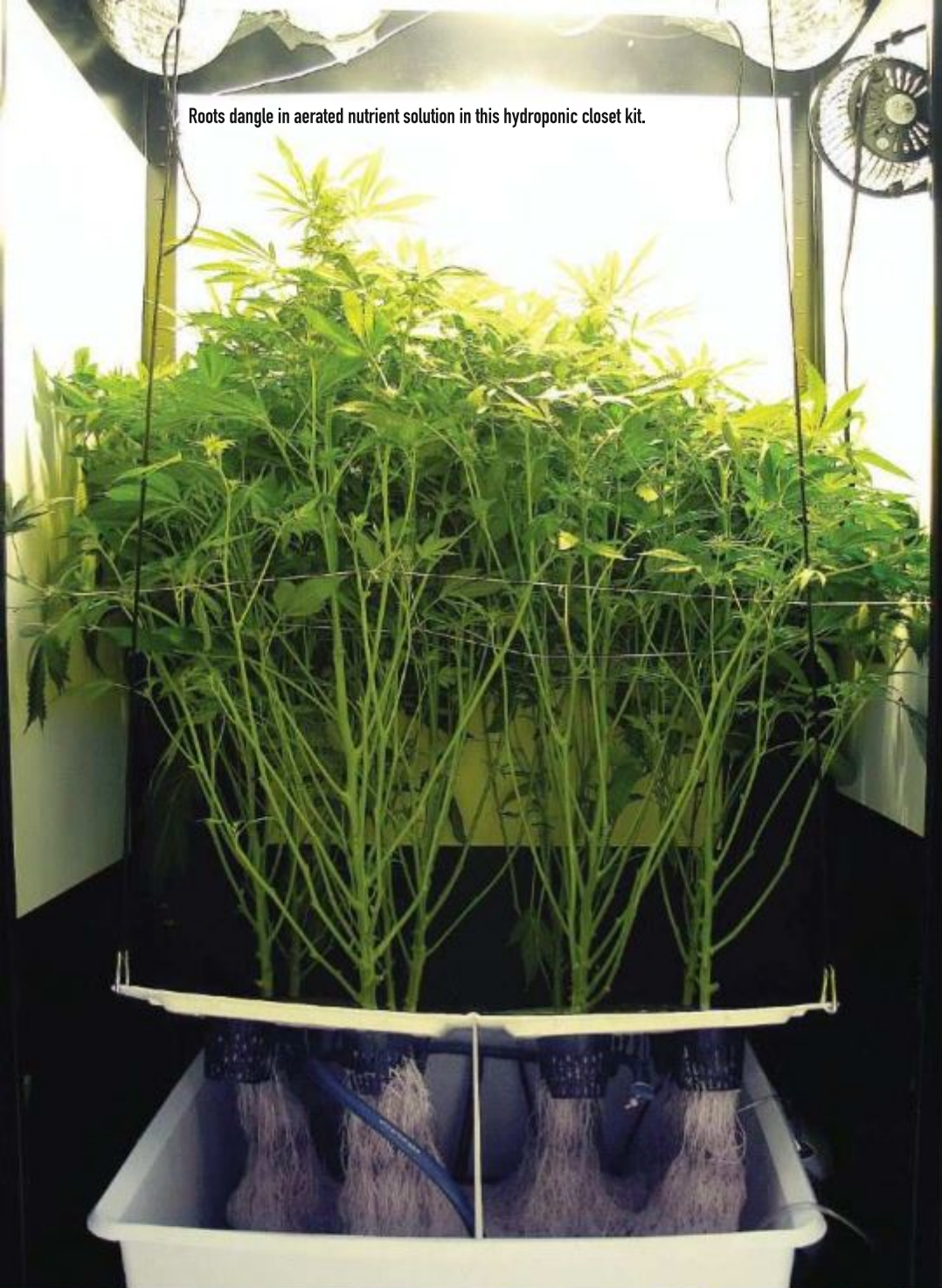
Also, always keep trays under your pots in the vegging area to collect the excess nutrient solution that drains through, but empty the trays after you water to avoid letting your pots sit in stagnant H₂O.

These organic closet plants are growing in self-watering containers.



Keep fluorescent lights as close to plant tops as possible for the best results.

Roots dangle in aerated nutrient solution in this hydroponic closet kit.



Fans cool the air around the plants and keep them moving in the breeze.

MOVING AIR

High temperatures are your biggest hurdle when growing in enclosed areas such as a closet or small grow tent. Ventilation is essential in smaller spaces, as the available fresh air becomes spent quite quickly. Leaves suck in CO₂ and release oxygen in order to perform their photosynthesis functions, which means that replenishing the CO₂ in your grow space is essential to keep your plants thriving. This requires both an intake and exhaust fan, as well as a small oscillating one inside your grow space to keep the leaves moving.

It may look odd to have tubing running from your closet, and if you're growing in an apartment where that might pose a problem, look into cutting a hole in the wall or ceiling inside your closet and running your exhaust fan through a charcoal filter and into that gap. The force of the exhaust will pull enough fresh air through the cracks in your door and create negative pressure, which prevents odors from seeping out and endangering your safety.

You can also purchase a CO₂ tank and regulator or a generator, although both have their drawbacks: The tanks need to be filled regularly, and generators create unnecessary heat in your tiny space. Your best bet is getting one of the new CO₂-creating bucket kits such as CO₂ Boost and replacing it after each harvest. This is a simple way to add gas without adding heat or hassles.

Some growers even go so far as to mount a large fan at floor level and an exhaust fan in the ceiling, creating a breeze from the bottom to the top of the closet that keeps air moving straight to the filters. This complicates things, but it's probably the best way to keep aromas from escaping.

LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

Unless you're working in a walk-in closet larger than 4 by 4 feet, a 1,000-watt high-intensity discharge (HID) light such as metal halide (MH) or high-pressure sodium (HPS) is going to be too much light and heat for your space. Instead, light up your flowering chamber with a 400- or 600-watt HPS at the most (for a 4' x 4' closet) and a 150- or 250-watt HPS for a smaller space (2' x 2').

Fluorescents and LEDs will also work to grow out buds, but you can't beat the light penetration and spectrum optimization you get from HID's. It's better to use fluorescents and LEDs in your vegetative space and save on power usage and heat in that chamber, instead of skimping in the flowering area and winding up with wispy buds.

You must also anticipate the stretch that occurs after flowering is induced. Some plants will grow another foot or two in the fortnight between when you change the light cycle to 12 hours on/12 hours off per day and when you start seeing the telltale female "puff-ball" flowers forming. Raise the lights as the plants grow and leave enough space to continue raising them as needed.

Keep in mind that getting a gram per watt is a really impressive yield, so you won't be producing pounds with every grow cycle. You should be able to get around 200 grams, or about 7 ounces, every two months or so, allowing you to smoke almost an ounce of bud per week without running out. On top of that, you'll be producing your pot for pennies on the dollar—plus you'll know everything that went into the finished product, from nutrients and pesticides to the loving care you spent daily to help your plants thrive. For medical patients and cannabis connoisseurs alike, nothing beats the feeling of creating your own stash year-round.

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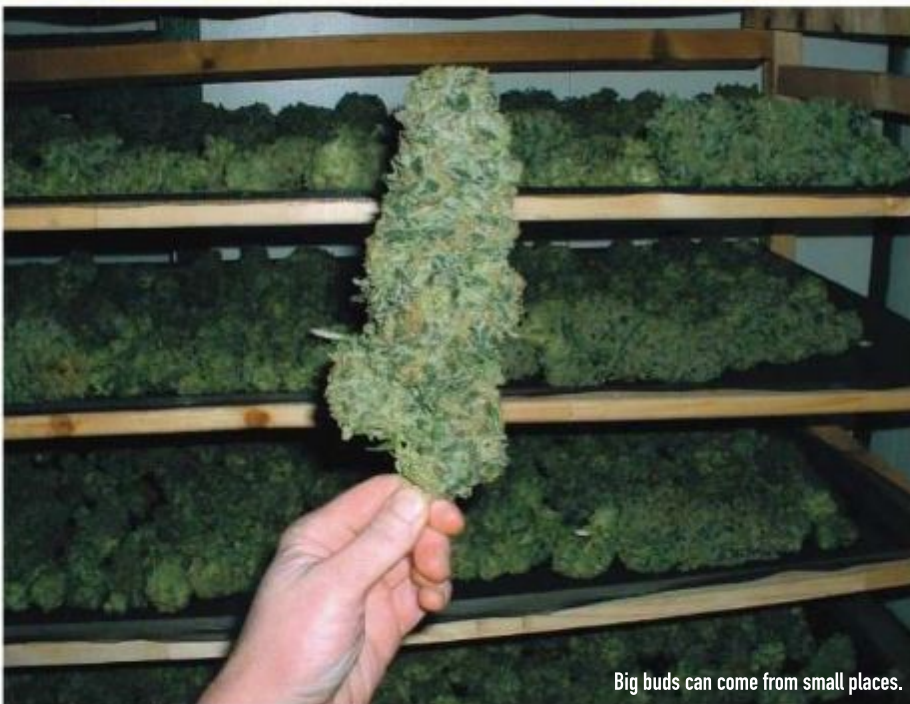




Using the "screen of green" (ScrOG) method of trellising maximizes the canopy.



This cola swells on day 57 of flowering as it approaches harvest.



Big buds can come from small places.

GROW MEDIUMS

You'll need to choose between a hydroponic, aeroponic, soil- or soilless-mix system for feeding and watering the roots of your plants. Soil (or more likely a soilless mix such as sphagnum peat or coco coir mixed with perlite) is always more forgiving and typically easier for the beginner grower.

More technically minded growers might want to experiment with deep-water culture (DWC) or ebb-and-flow hydroponic trays. The toughest way to grow—aeroponics—involves misting exposed roots with nutrient solution; when properly dialed in, aeroponics can grow bigger plants more quickly than any other method. Neutral substrates like rockwool and clay pellets provide a structure for the roots to grip, as well as a surface for moisture and air to collect in both hydro and aeroponic systems.

Whichever way you go, seal up the bottom 6 inches or more of your closet all the way around to avoid having any leaks seeping into your floor (or, even worse, to the floor below yours). This can be easily accomplished with some thick plastic and a staple gun. Rubber mats or splash tubs will also protect floors designed to hold little else than shoe racks and are easily removed and cleaned between harvests.

Potted plants will outgrow their containers every two to four weeks, meaning a transition that will shock them no matter how delicate you are. Always allow a little time for your babies to adjust to their new home before cranking up the light and nutes. Remember, the bigger the pot, the bigger the plant, because the size of the root system will directly determine how much food and water can be taken up. Fewer plants grown in larger buckets and provided with a longer vegetative time will outyield a larger amount of smaller plants that were induced to flower shortly after rooting.

GREEN SCREEN

Growers can maximize yield by using the "screen of green" (ScrOG), a derivative of the "sea of green" (SOG) method, in which branches are spaced through a wire or string grid to efficiently receive as much light as possible. Much like the art of bonsai, young twigs are trained to fill a desired space as they grow. By the time the plant is ready to flower, an even canopy will extend across your closet's entire width.

Your plants will need an additional week in the vegging chamber for the ScrOG method because they'll need more time to fill out. By trimming lower branches that don't fall within a light's optimal range for growth, you also force your plants to divert all their energy into the best buds.

Some advanced growers even do little tricks like chopping big fan leaves in half so they'll still produce energy but take up less space. Obviously, this opens your plant to mold and disease, so the utmost cleanliness is necessary.

Under the most efficient setup, small-wattage lights can be just as effective as larger ones due to the density of growth. You'll have something that looks like a leggy, alien plant with its head trapped in a fishing net, but you'll also end up with a stash composed entirely of the nicest colas.

CLOSET HARVEST

Once it's time to take down your closet crop, your flowering room can double as a drying chamber for the week or so before your next round of rooted cuttings or vegged seedlings are ready to start their 12/12 cycle. Simply turn off the grow light, put up some string or coat hangers from which to hang your trimmed colas, and keep the air flowing out.

Avoid running any fans directly onto the buds, because this will cause them to dry out too soon. Once the outsides of your nuggets are crispy and the stems crack instead of bending, jar up your buds for their final cure. Burp the jars at least once a day to rid them of any excess moisture that builds up until the humidity in them levels out. At this point, you'll be ready to start enjoying the fruits of your labors 🌿

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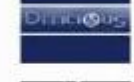
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LA Confidential	\$90
OG Kush	\$120
RKS	\$60
ReCon	\$83
Rodlock	\$60
Shakoberry	\$60
Sour Cream	\$60
Sour Kush	\$110
Sweet Haze	\$60
The OG #1B	\$105

Caribbean Seeds (3.6m auto)

AFxBe	\$44
BC1 Diesel	\$44
Big Band	\$44
Citrus	\$44
Korambia Special	\$44
La Blanca	\$44
La Reina De Africa	\$44
Mattro Blue	\$44
Original Berry	\$44
Smile	\$44
AFxBe (auto)	\$44
BC1 Diesel (auto)	\$44
Big Band (auto)	\$44
Rush (auto)	\$44
Cinorro (auto)	\$44
Korambia Special (auto)	\$44
La Blanca (auto)	\$44
Mattro Blue (auto)	\$44
Smile (auto)	\$44

Iranian Seeds (3.6m auto)

AKC-47	\$130
Chronic	\$115
White Russian	\$115

Caribbean Seeds (3.6m auto)

Citrus Skunk	\$75
GL3	\$95
Sour Sage	\$75
Kushage	\$75
Northern Lights #5 x Haze	\$95
Skunk x Northern Lights	\$75
White Widow	\$75

Iranian Seeds (3.6m auto)

Chronic ryder (auto)	\$65
Easy Ryder (auto)	\$65
Easy Ryder (auto)	\$65
Lovelyder (auto)	\$65

Iranian Seeds (3.6m auto)

Critical + (auto)	\$60
Fruit (auto)	\$45
Haze (auto)	\$60
Roadrunner #2 (auto)	\$54

Iranian Seeds (3.6m auto)

Chronic ryder (auto)	\$65
Easy Ryder (auto)	\$65
Easy Ryder (auto)	\$65
Lovelyder (auto)	\$65

Iranian Seeds (3.6m auto)

Critical + (auto)	\$60
Fruit (auto)	\$45
Haze (auto)	\$60
Roadrunner #2 (auto)	\$54

Iranian Seeds (3.6m auto)

Chronic ryder (auto)	\$65
Easy Ryder (auto)	\$65
Easy Ryder (auto)	\$65
Lovelyder (auto)	\$65

Iranian Seeds (3.6m auto)

Critical + (auto)	\$60
Fruit (auto)	\$45
Haze (auto)	\$60
Roadrunner #2 (auto)	\$54

Iranian Seeds (3.6m auto)

Chronic ryder (auto)	\$65
Easy Ryder (auto)	\$65
Easy Ryder (auto)	\$65
Lovelyder (auto)	\$65

Iranian Seeds (3.6m auto)

Critical + (auto)	\$60
Fruit (auto)	\$45
Haze (auto)	\$60
Roadrunner #2 (auto)	\$54



Iranian Seeds (3.6m auto)

Caribbean	\$85
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World of Seeds (3.6m auto)

Alghana Kush	\$35
Alghana Kush x Black Domain	\$35
Alghana Kush x Skunk	\$35
Alghana Kush x White Widow	\$35
Muzer Kush	\$35
Muzer Kush x Great White Shark	\$35
Muzer Kush x White Rhino	\$35
Northern Lights x Big Bud	\$35
Northern Lights x Skunk	\$35
Str 47	\$35
Alghana Kush Ryder (auto)	\$40

World of Seeds (3.6m auto)

Alghana Kush	\$35
Alghana Kush x Black Domain	\$35
Alghana Kush x Skunk	\$35
Alghana Kush x White Widow	\$35
Muzer Kush	\$35
Muzer Kush x Great White Shark	\$35
Muzer Kush x White Rhino	\$35
Northern Lights x Big Bud	\$35
Northern Lights x Skunk	\$35
Str 47	\$35
Alghana Kush Ryder (auto)	\$40

World of Seeds (3.6m auto)

Alghana Kush	\$35
Alghana Kush x Black Domain	\$35
Alghana Kush x Skunk	\$35
Alghana Kush x White Widow	\$35
Muzer Kush	\$35
Muzer Kush x Great White Shark	\$35
Muzer Kush x White Rhino	\$35
Northern Lights x Big Bud	\$35
Northern Lights x Skunk	\$35
Str 47	\$35
Alghana Kush Ryder (auto)	\$40

World of Seeds (3.6m auto)

Alghana Kush	\$35
Alghana Kush x Black Domain	\$35
Alghana Kush x Skunk	\$35
Alghana Kush x White Widow	\$35
Muzer Kush	\$35
Muzer Kush x Great White Shark	\$35
Muzer Kush x White Rhino	\$35
Northern Lights x Big Bud	\$35
Northern Lights x Skunk	\$35
Str 47	\$35
Alghana Kush Ryder (auto)	\$40

World of Seeds (3.6m auto)

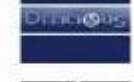
Alghana Kush	\$35
Alghana Kush x Black Domain	\$35
Alghana Kush x Skunk	\$35
Alghana Kush x White Widow	\$35
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Muzer Kush x Great White Shark	\$35
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Northern Lights x Skunk	\$35
Str 47	\$35
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World of Seeds (3.6m auto)

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Northern Lights x Skunk	\$35
Str 47	\$35
Alghana Kush Ryder (auto)	\$40

World of Seeds (3.6m auto)

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Alghana Kush x Skunk	\$35
Alghana Kush x White Widow	\$35
Muzer Kush	\$35
Muzer Kush x Great White Shark	\$35
Muzer Kush x White Rhino	\$35
Northern Lights x Big Bud	\$35
Northern Lights x Skunk	\$35
Str 47	\$35
Alghana Kush Ryder (auto)	\$40



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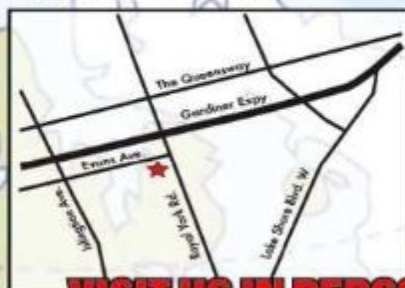
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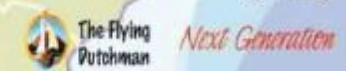
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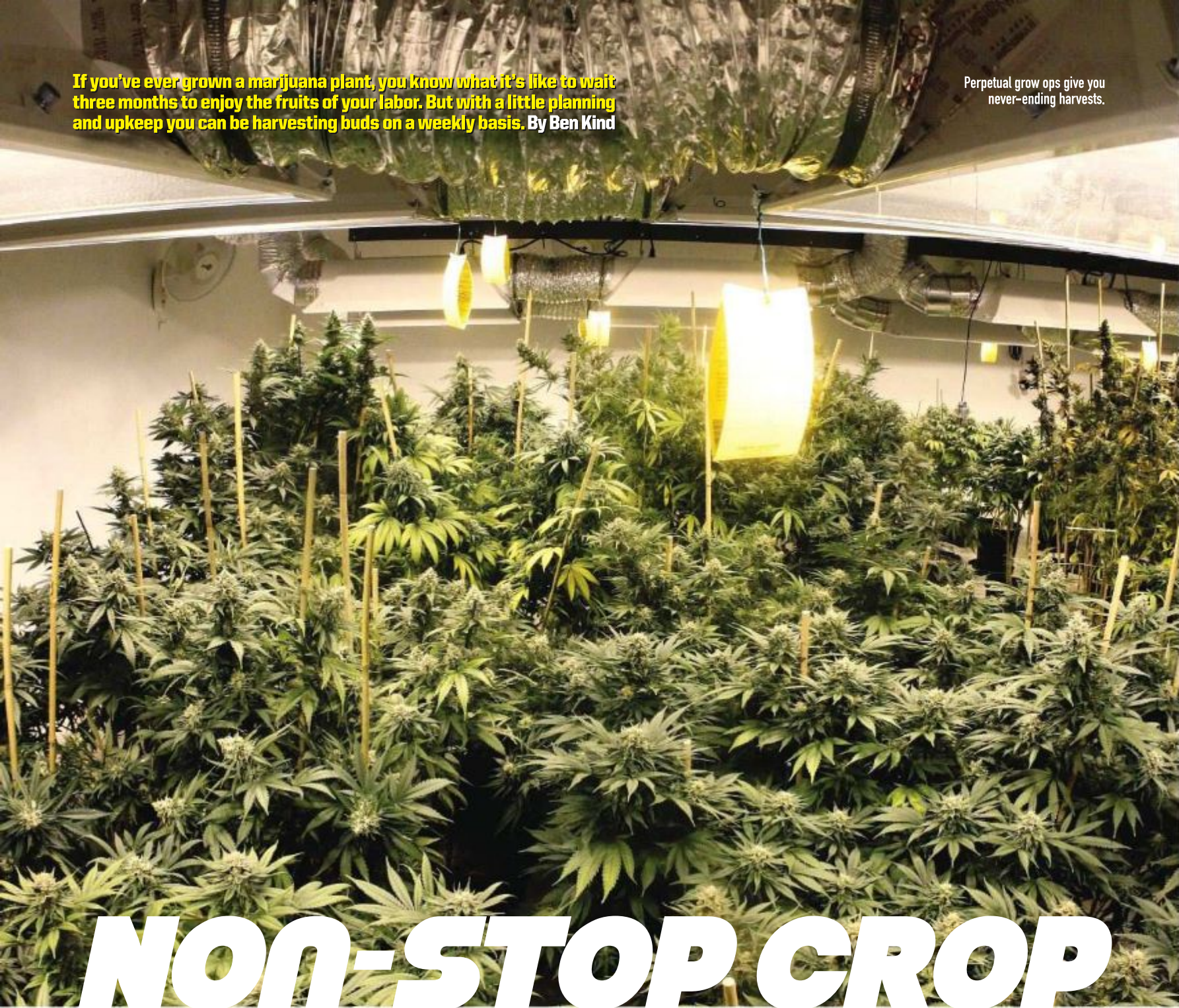
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If you've ever grown a marijuana plant, you know what it's like to wait three months to enjoy the fruits of your labor. But with a little planning and upkeep you can be harvesting buds on a weekly basis. By Ben Kind

Perpetual grow ops give you never-ending harvests.



NON-STOP CROP

THE CHRONIC GARDENER

How would you like to spend just cents on the gram and never rely on dispensaries or sketchy weed connections again? Welcome to the world of perpetual harvest.

As the name implies, a perpetual-harvest grow op provides a continuous yield of buds every one to two weeks. This is accomplished by staggering separate crops of cannabis plants throughout their various stages of development. Like an assembly line for cannabis, the plants are moved weekly or biweekly from the veg room into the flowering room (depending on the desired harvest schedule). They are subsequently moved through the flowering room at the same rate so that each time new females are moved in to flower, the same number are moved out and harvested. In short, when one crop leaves, another is ready to replace it.

You can do it with one plant at a time, or you can do it with 100—your only limits are time and space. The more steps you add, the more specialized care your plants will receive, equaling bigger yields. These facts should help you determine which schedule and setup is best for your situation.

Many people remain unaware of the fact that, in most states where you can purchase medical marijuana, you're allowed to grow it as well. Each state's laws differ, but almost all of them have established a set number of plants that you can grow as a patient. Additionally, most states stipulate how many plants a patient can have in the vegetative or

flowering stage at any given time. These regulations are designed to allow a medical-marijuana patient to operate a perpetual harvest legally at home. This means you can use your individual state's laws as the blueprint for your grow.

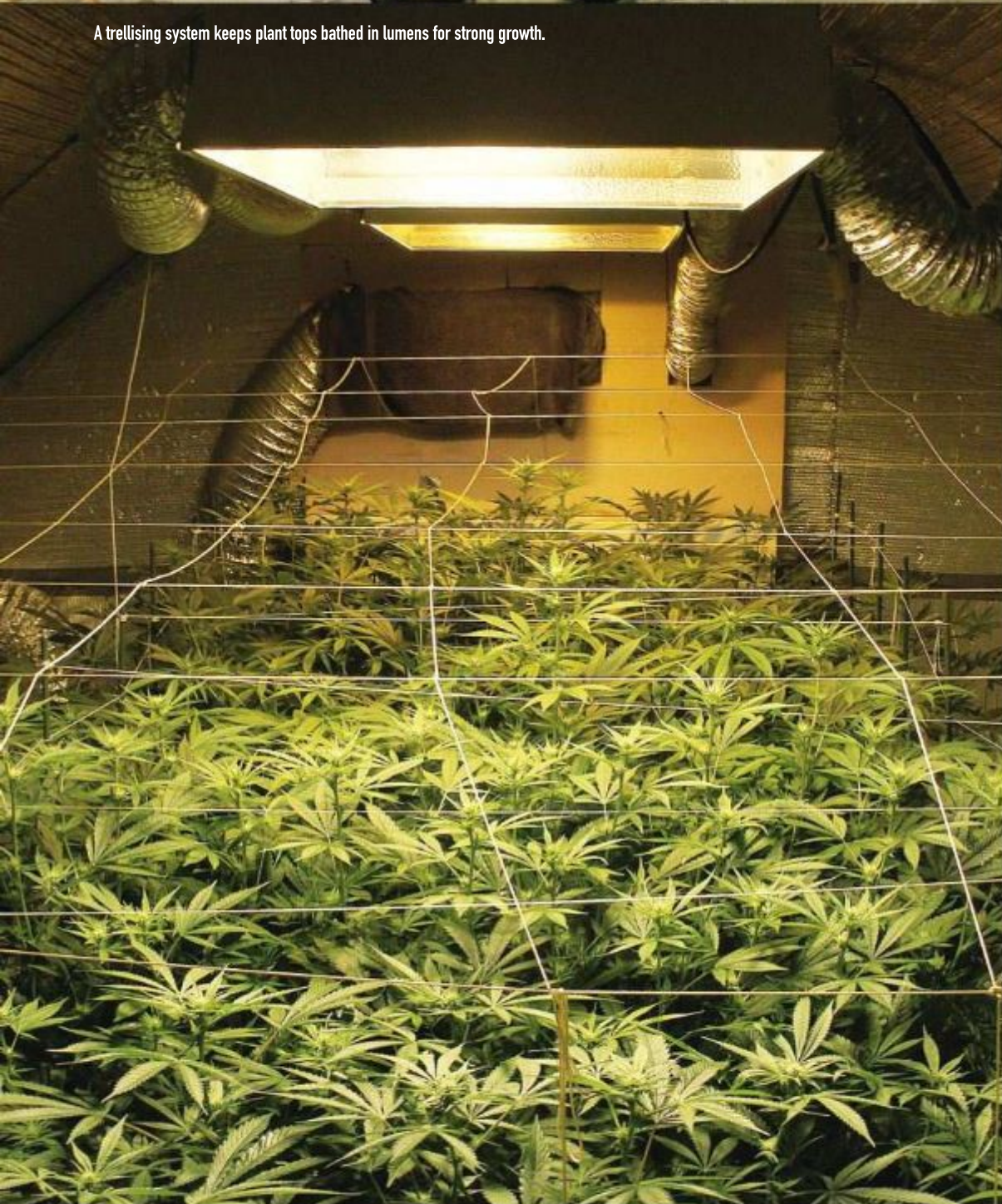
To make it happen requires careful planning and attention, so you'll want to have the basics of marijuana cultivation under your belt before attempting even the most basic perpetual grow. This means a decent familiarity with growrooms and nutrient regimens, and it also helps to have experimented with several different strains. Plus, with specialized rooms involving different lighting, temperature and humidity levels, you should expect to spend more than a little money on equipment and setup—not to mention the many hours of your life this will all eat up.

Therefore, we are issuing the following **DISCLAIMER**: The perpetual harvest is *not* for beginners and can take over your life if you let it. One missed step will set you back weeks or even months. Even with timed lights, drip lines and automated nutrient feeds, you'll need to do a major crop rotation at least once every two weeks and have eyes on the plants nearly every day in order to catch any problems in time.

With all that said, a conscientious cultivator can juggle multiple strains of marijuana with different growth times and requirements using just two separate rooms. Imagine growing both *indica* and *sativa* varieties, side by side, under two different schedules. All it takes is a good sense for timing and a little calendar marking.



These pot plants are in three different stages of flowering.



A trellising system keeps plant tops bathed in lumens for strong growth.

WILL BUILD TO SUIT

Consider the nautilus: The animal inside forms a new chamber each time it outgrows its former one. Each new chamber is proportionately larger than the last one throughout its lifespan. Meditate on this principle when you design your grow space.

Your perpetual-harvest schedule and your growroom setup are intertwined and need to be coordinated. The space you have to work with will be the ultimate deciding factor in the size of your production. All perpetual grows need at least three chambers—one for the mother(s) and new cuttings, one for the vegetative stage, and one for the flowering stage—and each chamber or compartment will have unique requirements for lighting, temperature and humidity.

A little forethought in designing your op will translate into huge savings of time and energy when you get down to business. Simple things like tray racks with casters and configurable dividing walls make your life infinitely simpler on plant-moving days. If there is such a thing as growroom feng shui, you'll want to incorporate it into your plans. Every step of your schedule should flow easily into the next.

The first thing to bear in mind when you envision your space is the development of your plants from cutting to curing. The amount of room and light they require changes greatly as they move through each stage of growth. Because flowering generally takes more time (assuming you don't want to veg for three months), you'll have several different batches in the flowering room at once. Plan for this when you cordon off your different chambers.

Remember that as your plants grow, their position in relation to the lights will need to change. This means either placing young plants on tables and gradually stepping them down to the floor, or raising the lights on a rig as they grow. The former requires more work and space, while the latter requires specialized equipment. One large-scale grower even installed a boat lift to hydraulically hoist a hefty lighting array as the plants grew.

In general, your flowering chamber should be at least twice as large as your vegging chamber to accommodate the growing buds and provide better air circulation. As the sticky trichomes form, plants become more susceptible to mold and rot and can therefore use a little extra breathing room.

Though the "sea of green" (SOG) and "screen of green" (ScrOG) methods achieve monster yields in tiny spaces by training plants to grow in a highly efficient way, these techniques are advanced and require much more attention and diligence than the beginner grower may want to attempt. If you're just starting out, you'll do no harm by keeping it simple.



Vegetating plants build up the root systems that will support flower production later.

EVERYBODY MUST GET CLONED

All cannabis plants have the same basic requirements, but each seed is an individual with its own characteristics. Even two plants of the same strain can have very different traits, growth times and yields when started from seed, just like human siblings from the same set of parents. Only clones—cuttings from a single plant that share the exact same DNA sequence—can be grown at a uniform rate and size.

A one-month-old clone behaves like a miniature four-month-old plant and can be induced to flower by switching it to a 12-hour photoperiod. And because clones share their parent plant's sex, clones are taken only from female mother plants. This takes sexing plants out of the equation altogether, which means you only have to watch out for the rare case of spontaneous hermaphroditism during the flowering stage. This is why cloning is crucial to the perpetual-harvest scheme.

If you've never cloned before, you're going to want to practice a few times before you start your grow. The key is to provide a humid and clean environment for your cuttings to take root. Sterilize tools and blades with rubbing alcohol right before you make any cuts, and root the cuttings in sterile compounds like rockwool, sphagnum moss or vermiculite. Keep them contained under clear plastic and water them minimally until new growth is apparent. Rooting hormones like Rootone and Clonex are useful in helping ensure that your cuttings survive.

Most growers like to keep a mother plant in the vegetative state as a source of cuttings for each successive crop. This plant can provide several generations of clones before it needs to be replaced. Another technique is to make a replacement clone from each plant in the vegetative room, but this method may have drawbacks such as genetic drift and loss of vigor. If you want to grow multiple plants in your perpetual harvest, using mother plants is the ideal method.

The best way to select a clone mother is to narrow the choice down from a group of at least 20 seedlings. Take clones from each plant and keep them vegging while the parents flower, removing any males or subpar specimens. Then simply keep the clones of the plants that produce the best buds.

Mother plants should be kept separated from your crop under 18 to 24 hours of light a day so they're always strong when you take your cuttings. Some growers report mother plants providing up to 20 generations of clones before they are retired, but any strong clone makes a fine replacement.

When it comes to rooting, you should always start and finish with the same method, as switching from hydro to soil or vice versa will shock your plants and set back their development. The easiest substrate to work with is also the natural one: soil. A nice organic mix of loam, sphagnum and vermiculite is the best growing medium for young and mature plants. Hardened expanded clay (HEC) and rockwool in hydro systems, as well as soilless mediums like vermiculite or perlite, grow smaller plants but are generally easier and less messy to work with.



Different stages require different feeding schedules and must be kept separate.



Lights are raised to accommodate growing buds.

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CANNABIS CONVEYOR BELT

The simplest perpetual-harvest plan involves three stages. Start with your first crop of rooted clones in the vegging chamber for four weeks. New clones do best on warming pads with humidity in the 90% to 100% range for the first few days, gradually decreasing to around 80% as their roots gain strength. Feed them with nitrogen-rich fertilizer after the first week and keep them under cool fluorescent bulbs and/or metal halide (MH) lamps for 18 to 24 hours per day (though most advanced growers prefer 18 hours of light and six hours of darkness, as the roots grow and develop during the dark period).

The veg stage generally lasts two to four weeks, depending on how big you want your plants. Keep in mind that plants will still increase to about double their size during the flowering stage. Growbox and SOG gardeners will want smaller plants and thus may want to move them into the flowering room after only a couple weeks. Plants in hydro and deep-water culture (DWC) systems tend to grow faster than ones in soil, and CO₂ emitters will also boost vegetative growth. Warehouse growers can even leave those suckers in for six weeks for some seriously large harvests!

At the end of two weeks, start another round of clones rooting. By now, the mother plant should be over the shock of the first crop and producing vigorous new growth. These new clones should be rooted and ready to go into the veg chamber when your first batch makes the leap into the flowering room.

Your plants will undergo shock any time they're moved from one stage to another. This means that growth slows or even stops and the plants momentarily cease processing water and nutrients. It is critical that you give your plants some adjustment time to compensate for this shift. Carefully check your plants' water levels several times a day to make sure they're drinking it up, and don't resume feeding until two weeks into the flowering stage. Thiamine (Vitamin B1) is great for transplant shock when moving plants into the flowering room as well as for new cuttings trying to root.

When you do switch on the juice again, it's going to have elevated levels of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) in relation to nitrogen. Just a little bump in P will help spur budding, but too much can cause shock and burn fragile roots. This is where your prior experience comes into play, because your plants are most vulnerable right after a big move and any misstep can spoil your plans. A working familiarity with nutrients, as well as with the space and time requirements of your chosen strains, is essential to a successful perpetual-harvest scheme.

By the time another vegging crop is ready to move, your flowering plants should be popping buds. This means you can shift them through the flowering room, possibly to another table with higher lamps, and ratchet up the potassium proportionately to the phosphorus while continuing to lower nitrogen levels. Budding tips will stretch dramatically toward the end of this phase, so you will need to constantly raise the lights or lower the plants accordingly.



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BLOOM COUNTY

Flowering times vary by strain, so the amount of time each new wave of plants spends in the flower room will dictate how big the space needs to be. Remember that new tenants will be ready to move in every two weeks, so if, for example, you let your plants flower for six weeks, you'll need room for three separate crops, each with increasing spatial requirements. The longer and more complex your flowering setup, the more stages your plan will involve.

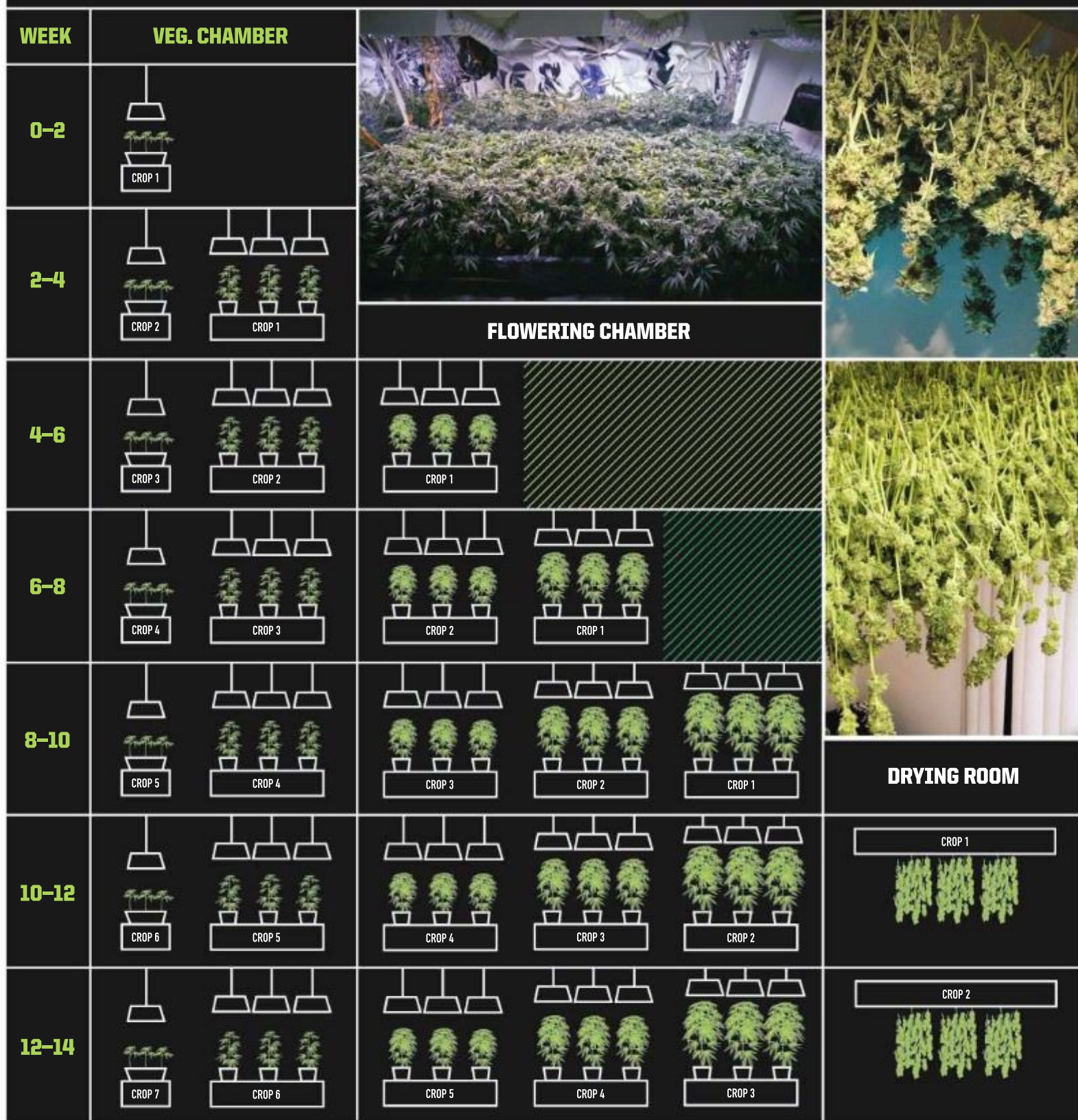
A week or two before harvest, start flushing your plants with pure water to remove trace minerals. Try to time the harvest just before your plants reach full maturity, since they'll continue to develop for several days after. A slight decrease in watering at this time also signals the buds to finish developing, bringing out the nice oranges and purples that make our mouths water. Removing large leaves a couple days out makes plants

turn their full attention to budding, although it's not necessary and can leave fragile buds unprotected through the drying process.

Come execution day, cut the stalks at the base immediately following an extended dark period so the cell systems are fully shut down. Hanging whole plants upside down in a humidity-controlled room for five to seven days allows the buds to dry slowly, giving them greater potency, better flavors and a nicer burn. Then the buds can be trimmed and cured over screens for another week until they are ready to smoke.

In two more weeks, your second batch should be ready to pluck. Uniformity is the key to ensuring that every crop follows the same timeline, so take note of each one's progress and make careful adjustments if your plants fall behind or get ahead of schedule, particularly when dealing with multiple varieties. After a little fine-tuning, this plan should allow you to crank out as much bud as you can comfortably fit in your grow space every two weeks.

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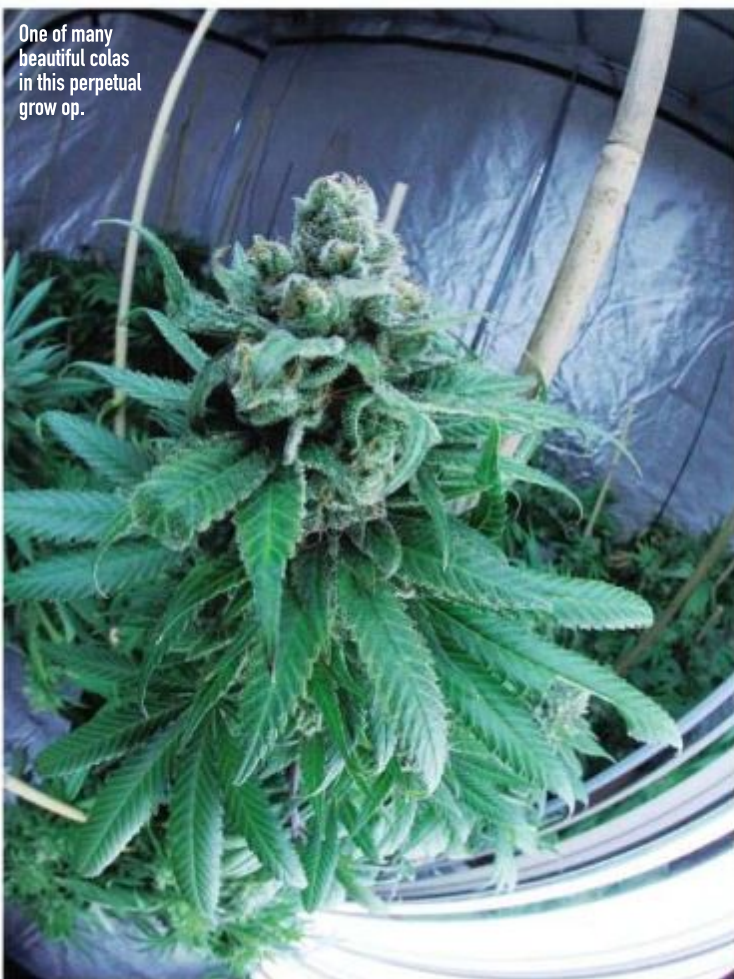
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Of course, for some ambitious growers, even two weeks is too long. If you're one of those people, there are ways in which you can maximize growth and coax your garden to yield continuously on a *one-week* turnaround. But that's going to be a full-time job, and it's also going to take twice as much space as a two-week cycle would.

For one thing, it means you'll need more mother plants to rotate through so you don't overtax them. You'll also have several crops vegging at a time, and the plants will definitely be piling up in the flowering room. But crops at two different stages can be flowered under the same lights with only incremental differences in nutrients and care. The biggest change will be in your drying room, where twice as many plants will be hanging at any one time.

Additionally, the flowering stage can be broken up into different phases if you want to provide specialized care at several crucial points in your crop's development. Some growers like to maximize the budding of their plants in the final two weeks with additives like enzymes and carbohydrates to turbo-charge the rate at which they

take up nutrients. Full-spectrum bulbs (especially UV) help bring out the subtle characteristics of any strain, so they also benefit plants greatly in the last few weeks of flowering.

Sativa strains pack a heady punch but produce smaller yields and take twice as long to flower as *indicas*. The enterprising cannasseur can use this formula to his or her advantage, maturing several *sativa* plants along with a larger crop of an *indica*-dominant variety.

By moving the *sativas* every four weeks instead of two, you'll have a small batch of the good stuff every other harvest. Your *sativa* plants will require more head room, so by the final stage they'll be far taller than your *indicas*, requiring separate lights or a lower footprint.

The largest perpetual-harvest schemes (usually for medical dispensaries) have multiple varieties of marijuana growing in different mediums and conditions. These require the efforts of an entire team of expert gardeners—but even the most expert among them started out experimenting with simple models and modest yields. Expect to toss out the first several rounds before you get it right—but once you do, you'll be cranking out batches of quality buds like clockwork. 🌿



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Harvest Time in Marijuanaland

By Jonah Raskin



HIGH TIMES Books is pleased to announce the publication of *Marijuanaland: Dispatches From an American War* by longtime contributor Jonah Raskin. In the early '80s, Raskin began working as a marijuana reporter in and around his native California, with a beat that encompassed pot politics, pot growers and potheads. For *Marijuanaland*, he returned to the field to detail the good, bad and ugly sides of cannabis culture throughout the famed Emerald Triangle. Follow his gonzo adventures as he speaks to the growers, dealers, dispensary owners, lawyers, smokers and cops who comprise the quasi-legal marijuana industry in Northern California. Like Hunter S. Thompson before him, Raskin doesn't shy away from participating in the stories he's supposed to be covering. Here, we find him at a trimming party—a writer who's not afraid to get his hands sticky.

I took part in a harvest on land owned by two brothers who were in their early thirties and had resolved their sibling rivalries to become friends. They had 100 or so plants, all *Cannabis indica*, and they estimated that each plant would produce at least a pound and perhaps two. But they were being modest; I could see that many of the plants would yield closer to three or even four pounds. The brothers would have more marijuana than they had ever had before, and they were overjoyed. They didn't want to count their money before it was in their pockets, but they were counting it in their heads and their eyes were bulging.

I arrived five days into the harvest and went right to work. In the garden, I cut down the tops—huge, sticky colas—and transported them uphill in a golf cart to the trailer where the manicuring took place. The work was steady and unhurried; it was quiet everywhere around us. I felt that I was in the land of silence—I could barely even hear the bees buzzing or the hummingbirds humming. There was no sound of wind in the fir trees. The landscape was gentle, the sky was cloudy, and I felt at peace—Marijuanaland at its best.

The two brothers, Pancake and Rye, along with four of their friends, harvested and manicured all day long. The marijuana strain they were trimming, which I also helped manicure on the day that I visited, was called LA Confidential. They hoped to sell all their pot to one dealer from LA that they trusted at \$1,800 a pound. They would front him most of the pot and would be in no rush to sell it. If they had to wait until February, they said, then they would wait, but they would not drop their price.

I had met Pancake and Rye in February and followed Pancake around for about eight months. (His brother, Rye, had other matters to attend to.) Pancake showed me their indoor and outdoor operations and talked almost without stopping about politics, pot, his two favorite authors—Tom Robbins and Kurt Vonnegut—

and his all-time favorite TV show, *South Park*, which had played, he felt, a crucial role in his development.

Pancake went to work for his dad after graduating high school and learned how to grow legal flowers such as roses and zinnias. "For a while, I hated roses," Pancake told me. "I once planted 2,500 bare-root roses, thorns and all, and after a while I began to call them 'bastards.'" For cannabis, on the other hand, he had a real affection; the pot plants were his "darlings."

During his teens and early twenties, he was in full-blown rebellion, he told me, against his parents, his family and whatever else came along. He and Rye were both arrested for possession by a cop they knew from their high-school days, and who had never liked their irreverent style. The arrest didn't deter them from their newfound mission: to grow the best marijuana ever.

Their parents were worried about them, and for a time the family came apart. Then they decided to turn Dad on; he started to smoke marijuana and enjoyed it, and felt pride in his sons who grew such unconventional flowers. The old father-sons rivalry faded away, and the family that smoked together grew closer.

"I started to grow pot when I was a teenager," Pancake told me one day when we were driving around town in his battered station wagon. "Most of my classmates smoked—the honor-roll students and the auto-shop guys. I didn't like the idea of buying weed from someone else; I wanted to be able to smoke my own pot—and then, after that, I wanted to make enough money by growing it to support myself."

Pancake parked the car, and we went into a garden-supply store where he bought bags of fertilizer and a pair of clippers. Then, back in the car, he continued his tale.

"At the start, I was a guerrilla grower because I didn't have land of my own," he said. "I grew it in a creek bed in direct sunlight; I had

to walk a mile or so to get to the site. I pumped water out of the creek and visited the garden every three to four days. I made enough money my first season to move out of my dad's house, rent my own place and buy a car."

One day in August, Pancake picked me up at my house and we drove together for about two hours to reach his garden, 1,600 feet above sea level, and also above the highest level of fog that rolled in from the Pacific. Before we left my place, I had shown him my pot, but Pancake was unimpressed. True enough, it wasn't exactly commercial-grade.

Pancake and his brother were growing on a 40-acre parcel that their father owned. When I arrived, I noticed the American flag at the gate and another flag with the words "Don't tread on me." Pancake explained: "We're libertarians—we believe in states' rights. We want the federal government off our land and out of our lives."

For protection, they had a few guns, but they mostly relied on two ferocious watchdogs, Nightshade and Mugwort. The dogs never took a liking to me, and I did not mess with them.

All around the hills and valleys, their neighbors were growing marijuana; the two brothers knew about these nearby gardens because they routinely scanned the landscape with binoculars and the gardens popped up—especially at the end of the season, when they were the only green around. "I was relieved to know my neighbors were growing," Pancake told me. "That meant they had their own and weren't going to poach my plants."

Outlaw grape growers existed side by side with the pot growers in these parts. The grape growers did not bother with permits from the county and did not follow county rules and regulations; it was too expensive. Even if the grape growers were caught and fined, it would be less expensive than paying the necessary fees for the vineyards. In addition to marijuana, Pancake and Rye grew vegetables and fruits: tomatoes, basil, pumpkins, apples,

The Green Triangle indeed.



Harvest Time in Marijuanaland

blueberries, grapes and corn. They had a grove of olive trees for olive oil. They installed solar panels for electricity and pumped water from a spring down the hill to a large tank uphill; gravity then delivered that water to their plants. Self-sufficiency was their goal, and they were getting there quickly thanks to marijuana. Before long, their enterprise would be sustainable.

Their garden wasn't out in the open, and it was nowhere near as obvious as some others I'd seen. It was located on a steep slope with southern exposure, and it received bright sun in the afternoon late in the season, when it counted. The plants, grown from seeds, were grouped together so thickly that I felt like I was in a jungle whenever I walked through them. In my 30 years in the pot scene, I had never seen so many plants packed together in one place. As the season wore on, Pancake and Rye thinned out their jungle; the 10-foot plants spread out, filled out and shot up toward the sky with thick, beautiful colas.

During the harvest at Pancake and Rye's farm, we listened to the soundtrack of a compelling documentary called *Grass*. Narrated by Woody Harrelson, it covered the history of cannabis and was being broadcast on KPFA, the listener-sponsored radio station in Berkeley. Suddenly, the voice of Fiorello LaGuardia, the legendary New York City mayor from the '30s and '40s, filled the room in which we were manicuring.

"The people of the United States do not want it enforced," he said. "It," of course, was the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937 that LaGuardia opposed, much as he opposed Harry Anslinger and the rest of pot prohibition's fakery. After *Grass*, KPFA ran a program about John Lennon to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his birth, with lots of Lennon's music.

We smoked homemade hash from a water pipe, and I was really stoned once again. I manicured merrily and listened to the trimmers tell stories about marijuana raids, thieves who were caught, and enforcers who returned stolen pot to farmers.

I asked Nomo, one of the trimmers, whether he had voted for or against legalization. "I like the way things are," he replied. "I don't want marijuana to become corporate, and I don't want to be part of any fucking system for the



These nuggets are so sticky you need gloves.

At the end of the day, I was covered with marijuana leaves and marijuana resin. My clothes and my skin smelled of marijuana perfume.

regulation of marijuana. I want pot to be tax-free, government-free, with free access to information, free seeds and freedom for drug offenders. Even if it were to pass in California, Uncle Sam would still knock on doors, arrest us and steal our crop. Fuck that, man!"

Pancake took a hit from the water pipe and passed it to me. I puffed a little, took the smoke into my lungs and felt it travel instantly through my body. I was in dreamland. At ease and relaxed, I went on manicuring ounce by ounce, until I'd manicured about \$3,000 worth of marijuana. It was just all in a day's work.

At the end of the day, I was covered with marijuana leaves and marijuana resin. My clothes and my skin smelled of marijuana perfume. Marijuana was in my hair. It stuck to every part of me—arms, legs and face—and that's the way I wanted it to be. I would go down the mountain with the marijuana in my pores, in my blood and in my head.

I got in my car, Pancake unlocked the gate, and I drove away slowly; I didn't want to leave. At the first bend in the road, I heard the crack of a rifle, and I stopped for a moment and looked at the horizon. Then I started down the

mountain again, going slowly. I was not in any hurry to get back to civilization. I didn't hear another shot, so I decided it was a kind of salute, a friendly farewell, a goodbye-come-again.

Driving down the mountain, I thought about Nomo and the battle to legalize pot. It was clear that the Feds would not budge anytime soon; that was their message everywhere in Marijuanaland. They were still busting "dirty hippies," not unlike the original hippies of the 1960s. And they were busting Indians just because they were Indians and poor. They busted women and men, Mexicans and Anglos, chopped up the pot they confiscated and, as part of their ritual, buried it in secret places in the ground as though it were evil—a legacy of the Puritans, who demonized wild things, and a legacy, too, of the descendants of the Puritans, who went raving mad about reefer, grass, marijuana, pot, cannabis, dope, hemp and whatever else one called it.

The outlaw life would go on, and outlaws would continue to grow it in the mountains and valleys—grow it from seeds and clones, in sun and in shade, loving it as

though it were their own flesh and blood, this outlaw plant that had survived for thousands of years despite the burnings and executions of the Sufis, that had traveled to Europe by boat from China and India, had sailed across the oceans as sailors and pirates got high, had finally reached England, this holiest of herbs, and endured yet more persecution and demonization, yet never lost its identity as the eternal sacrament and medicine, and that spread from continent to continent and to every mountain top in America; and it had reached California, where it became the king of crops—behind the Green Curtain, in the Emerald Triangle where Flora grew it, and where I lived among the growers of Mendocino after my father died, and where I inherited his marijuana that sent me on a journey I am just now beginning to see as it stretches behind me, circles around me, leads me ahead, takes me forward and into the future, to another spring, another summer, another fall harvest in the land of silence and helicopters, with the perverse addictions of policemen and politicians, in the strange beauty of the rough, dry land of rains and rebirths, the green, green land of marijuana 🌿

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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH ELIJAH WOOD. BY DAN SKYE

When *The War* was released in 1994, Elijah Wood's performance led film critic Roger Ebert to praise him as "as the most talented actor in his age group, in Hollywood history." Indeed, Wood has been a Hollywood standout since he first appeared in the Paula Abdul music video "Forever Your Girl" at the age of eight. A generation of kids grew up on his early films, including *Radio Flyer*, *Forever Young*, *The Good Son* and *Flipper*.

His youthful looks and considerable talent may have earned him a robust career as a child actor, but Wood, now 30, has made a skillful transition to adult roles. Best known as Frodo Baggins in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, he has made a conscious effort to stretch his range, appearing as a serial killer in *Sin City*, a tough guy embroiled with the Irish mob in *Ash Wednesday*, and a member of a British soccer team's rabid fan base in *Green Street Hooligans*. Now he's starring in the pot-saturated comedy series *Wilfred* on FX, in which he plays a fairly normal guy, except for the fact that his best friend is a mixed-breed dog named Wilfred (played by Jason Gann), who has been described as "part Labrador, part Russell Crowe on a bender."

The story goes that Elijah Wood got into show business because his mom wanted him to burn off excess energy. It seems to have worked to some extent, but he still has plenty to spare: These days, Wood is involved in countless projects, including his own recording label.

Recently, Wood sat down with us to talk about the recent tectonic shift in Hollywood, where now—finally—pot is scoring big at the box office.

When *Lord of the Rings* was being made, we read reports that the extras were smoking pot on the set because there was so much down time.

Really? I didn't hear that, but I'm not surprised. I think New Zealanders have a pretty healthy relationship with marijuana. It's definitely a facet of their life, and New Zealanders have a deep connection with nature. But I love that! That's so great! That's so awesome! I mean, marijuana and *Lord of the Rings* have been tightly linked for a long time.

Why do you think that is?

Marijuana and fantasy stories have been linked forever, to a certain degree. *Lord of the Rings* was accepted by the counterculture in the '60s. There are direct references in the book to "Pipe-weed." Certainly, it doesn't take much imagination to imagine that the term was a reference to pot, or could be interpreted as that. Pipe-weed is quite pervasive among the hobbits—with the hobbits specifically. They're natural people, living off the land and quite chilled out; they love to eat and sleep. They sound like stoners to me.

Hollywood seems to have changed its whole attitude about pot.

Absolutely. And pot is being shown in a good light. The stoner comedy is back. When something like *Pineapple Express* comes along, with major comedic actors like James Franco—we're talking major Hollywood production.

Your new show *Wilfred* seems to be tailor-made for a stoner audience.

I got the script for *Wilfred*, and it was one of the funniest things I've ever read—unlike anything I'd ever read before. *Wilfred* is a bong-smoking Australian in a dog suit. That's pretty hilarious in and of itself. In the pilot, Wilfred and I break into the neighbor's house and steal a lot of pot plants—he

forces me into the situation. There are a number of scenes where Wilfred and Ryan are just hanging out smoking pot. There's actually a whole area in Ryan's house, in this basement, where the two of them hang out in the basement, on the couch, smoking pot.

The character of Wilfred is up for interpretation: Is he a manifestation of my character's mind? I think he represents more, a sort of force that pushes my character in directions he wouldn't normally go. But there's also the sense that Wilfred has his own interests at heart.

How widespread do you think marijuana use is in Hollywood?

It's gotten to the point where it just seems a natural part of people's lives. It's certainly not taboo; I know a number of people who have medical cards. People feel very free talking about it. It doesn't seem to be hidden or shoved under the carpet. It's a part of people's lives in a very natural way.

You live in California. What's your perspective on the pot scene there?

I think that the whole notion that marijuana is illegal is past the point of ridiculousness. I live very close to a very fine dispensary—the Farmacy. It has this great sense of legitimacy; it's like a hybrid of a dispensary and a health-foods store. They carry a variety of individual herbs for general health, and the staff is very knowledgeable. I live in the neighborhood. To me, it should be the standard. It shows what we could achieve—obviously, we *have* achieved it, because it exists.

Ten years ago, many Hollywood people were reluctant to talk about marijuana—even medical marijuana. You seem to be talking about it rather freely.

It seems a little silly to be uptight about some-

The eternally youthful Elijah Wood.



'I JUST FEEL IT SHOULD BE DECRIMINALIZED. WE'RE SPENDING TAXPAYERS' MONEY ON PUTTING PEOPLE AWAY FOR SOMETHING SO HARMLESS.'



Wood takes up in the pot-infused TV comedy *Wilfred*.

thing that's so natural. To be honest, I'm not really much of a pot smoker—it never really sat well with me. I've got friends that smoke and have smoked for years. I've always wished that I could achieve that comfort and tolerance, but I have no tolerance for it whatsoever. But I've always been an advocate. I just feel it should be decriminalized. We're spending taxpayers' money on putting people away for something so *harmless*.

No argument here. Last year, the US spent \$15 billion on the War on Drugs—

Fifteen billion—Jesus! Look, there are certain substances that are incredibly harmful. Crystal meth, you're looking at a drug that is extremely cheap, easy to create, and in most cases will ruin someone's life. So I'm not psyched about that being around.

We have a real interesting relationship with drugs in this country. The War on Drugs fights everything, from the most harmful to the most harmless—marijuana being the most harmless. Yet our medical system will also prescribe and overprescribe drugs to children and to adults who often don't need them. Consumers spend billions of dollars on legal substances that can be just as harmful. They all have side effects.

Look at the drugs prescribed for children. When I was a kid, the notion of ADHD and ADD didn't exist, but now it does. I don't know enough to really speak authoritatively, but I do have a sense that kids are kids. There are kids that are hyperactive and there are kids that aren't, but it doesn't necessarily mean that they're sick.

Prescription drugs obviously help a lot of

people, but they can create new problems in people that didn't need them in the first place. For some people, drugs present easy solutions. We live in a world nowadays where everything is about convenience and quick answers: "I'm fat, therefore I'm going to take a pill for it." But the easy option isn't necessarily the best option. I think you'll find that, a lot of the time, the easy option can be the most harmful.

How do you view the Charlie Sheen saga?

He's lost. He would certainly speak to the opposite: that he's operating on a higher level. And you know what? Maybe he is. The guy seems to have spent a large portion of his life enjoying substances, according to what he's said, without it ever having really been a problem. He enjoyed them, he doesn't need AA, he can quit on his own, he says. Well, all power to him, I suppose.

Definitely, for about two weeks, the world was watching the Charlie Sheen show, and it was incredibly entertaining. But maybe we're also watching someone fall apart—which also speaks to the kind of world we live in. We're celebrity-obsessed, and we're also obsessed with watching someone crumble. Then it becomes yesterday's news. Two weeks go by and everybody is sick of it. But that guy is still essentially disintegrating.

We're a world of voyeurs; it's always been a facet of our existence. At no other time has our media been so vast or have we been able to view other people's lives so intimately via the Internet and reality television. It's a little scary, but there's no turning back. It's pervasive, and until a massive amount of people say that

they're tired of it—which will never happen—it's going to carry on.

Where does a movie star's responsibility end with the fans?

Good question. It's sort of a malleable thing—different people have different relationships with their fans. I'm friendly with Olivia Munn, and she sets a crazy standard—and an amazing one: She communicates with her fans and has a real strong bond with them. I don't know if that works for everybody.

It's important to recognize that there's a responsibility to be kind and accept the fact that people appreciate your work. It's important to be appreciative and never lose sight of the fact that a lot of people support what it is that you do—to a certain degree, one's success can be attributed to that. I love people and I enjoy interacting with anyone, whether they're fans or not. I was lucky enough to have some visibility prior to *Lord of the Rings*. It's an unenviable position, I think, to rise to fame overnight and not have the tools to deal with it.

When you see someone who doesn't, what's your reaction?

Fame can inflate one's ego. It can make people lose perspective as to what they're doing in the first place and confuse the separation between who you are as a person and the persona that people attribute to you. You can weather that storm easily if you have a solid sort of base and foundation. I've always said that, luckily, the person that I am and where I am in my life, both as a person and in my career, is what I was raised to be. I think I was provided a solid foundation and a



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the high times interview

great of amount of perspective. My mother drummed it into me from a young age—she wasn't going to allow myself to believe that I was any more important than anyone else because of what I was doing. She wasn't going to handle that shit. She would just as soon have taken me out of the industry.

I don't go to great lengths to uphold a reputation. I am the person that I am, and I try to be the best person that I can. I'm always striving to be better. I rarely trust—or fully trust—in my own abilities, even now at 30. But I think that's a great asset, because it just means that I need to work harder.

What annoys you most about your industry?

Laziness particularly annoys me. When people aren't held accountable for their actions, it can be incredibly frustrating. I don't know—inflated egos, treating people like shit when you're no better than anyone else ... it's a real part of the industry. We award people for their achievements, which results in people feeling they're better or working on a higher level than anyone else. That's a huge pet peeve of mine. If you've done something of artistic merit that people appreciate, it doesn't necessarily mean you're more deserving of a better life than others.

Lord of the Rings made you an international star. How has that affected your life?

I'd had some experience with being recognized, but nothing on this level. One thing that people don't talk about often, when they're discussing the notion of being recognizable, is that one of its nice benefits is that I can literally travel *anywhere* in the world, be out in a place that I've never been, in a city by myself, and someone will approach me and they've seen *Lord of the Rings*. There's an immediate comfortability in recognizability—it's a way to communicate with people. There is something about that I love: I can travel anywhere and meet people, whereas otherwise I wouldn't necessarily have a direct "in" with the locals.

I don't think about my recognizability that often—I don't think about it when I leave my house. But there are certain times when you'd rather go about your own business and not be spoken to, either.

Has being closely associated with Frodo Baggins affected your career?

After something like the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, you remain in people's imaginations and minds. It's not a stumbling block—I think *Lord*

of the Rings actually created more opportunities for me. Any difficulties for me are more related to age or seeming younger or looking younger than I am. I'm 30, but I don't look 30. It's not really so much a hindrance in the sense that, later in life, it will be a great asset—I suppose.



Wood is now an international star.

'I RARELY TRUST, OR FULLY TRUST, IN MY OWN ABILITIES, EVEN NOW AT 30.'

Do you feel pressure to define yourself differently?

I'm always looking to do something that is different from anything I've done before. That existed prior to *Lord of the Rings*, and it remains the same now. I'm always looking to challenge myself and look for roles that are different from anything I've played.

I've been working in film for most of my life—22 years. The process of making a film and being involved in the development of a film is something that I've always wanted to do. So I don't look at new projects or dreams as taking a great risk; it's just another venture. There is something freeing about it, because you create your own path. I'm not waiting for a role—I'm developing scripts with screenwriters and attaching filmmakers. The

process is incredibly liberating and a lot of fun. I don't feel the pressure of expectation. The older I get, the more I feel independent enough to follow my own path. Life is a multifaceted experience, and I've never felt that I can be wholly and completely satisfied by acting for my entire life. I have other interests.

You've made some diverse choices as an actor, though.

I'm interested in playing characters that are a little bit darker. Getting a chance to play a character like Kevin in *Sin City* was a lot of fun. I was a huge, huge fan of the graphic novels. Getting a chance to work on that was kind of a dream come true—specifically, getting a chance to work with Frank Miller on-set as a co-director was pretty amazing. It was only two days of work, surprisingly, because it's all green-screened: I'm acting on green screen, and, in fact, Mickey Rourke had already finished his work as Marv. I actually worked with Rourke's stunt double. I didn't have any dialogue—it was all stunts and evil.

For me, personally, what I most get out of it is being a part of the filmmaker's world. It's a huge deciding factor for me as an actor—getting a chance to work with filmmakers and be a part of a collective vision that is unique and interesting is what motivates me most. If I can play a small part in something that I think is incredible and interesting, that's a major part of the joy for me. ✨

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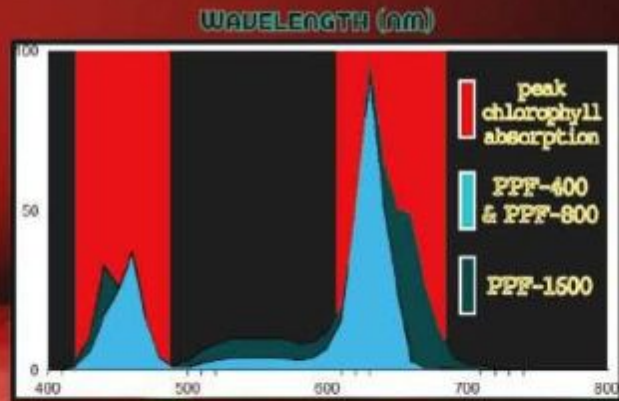
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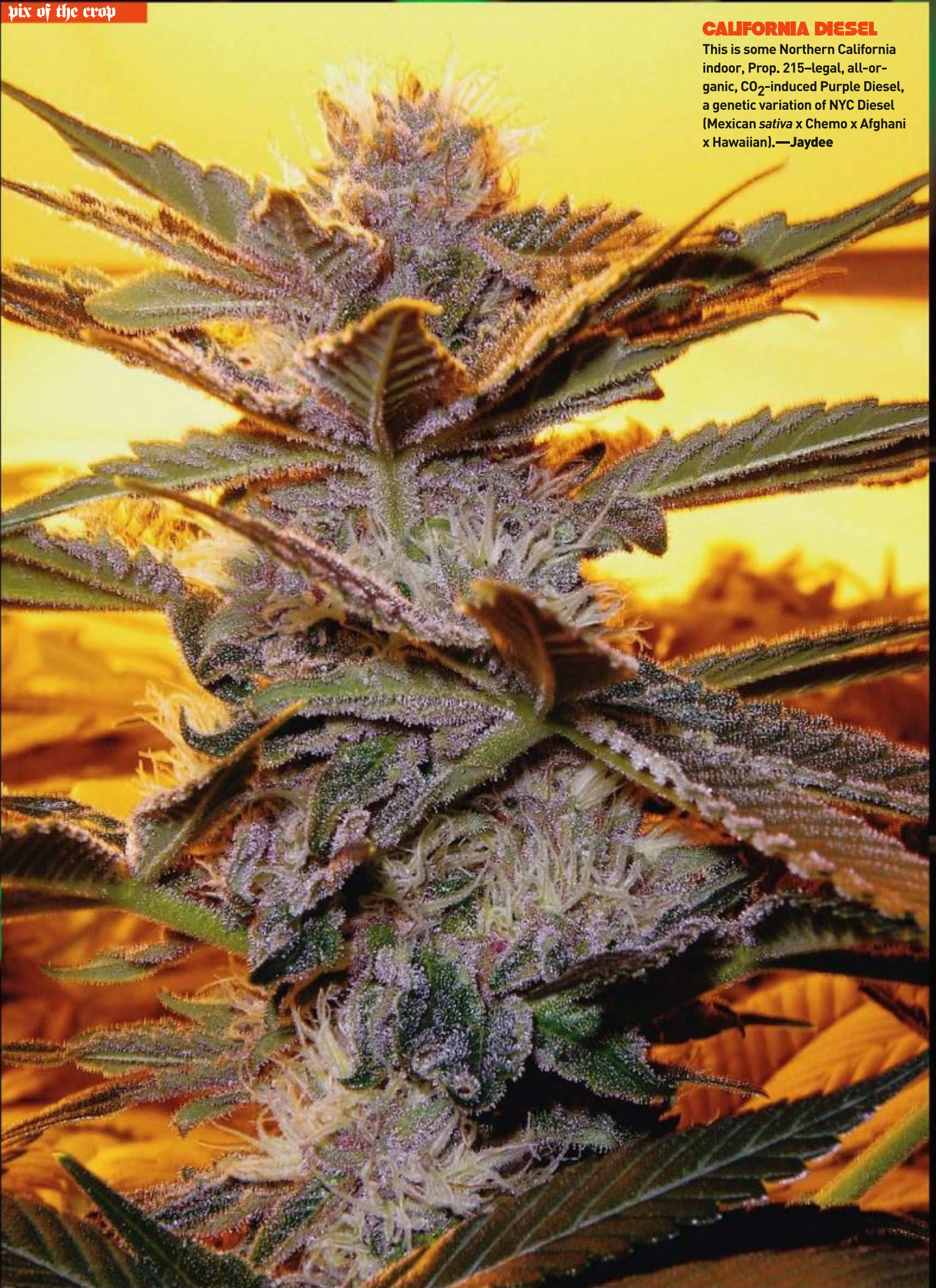
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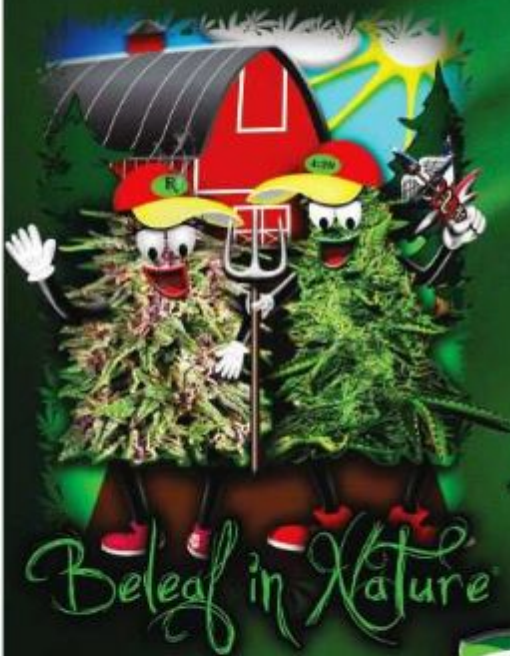
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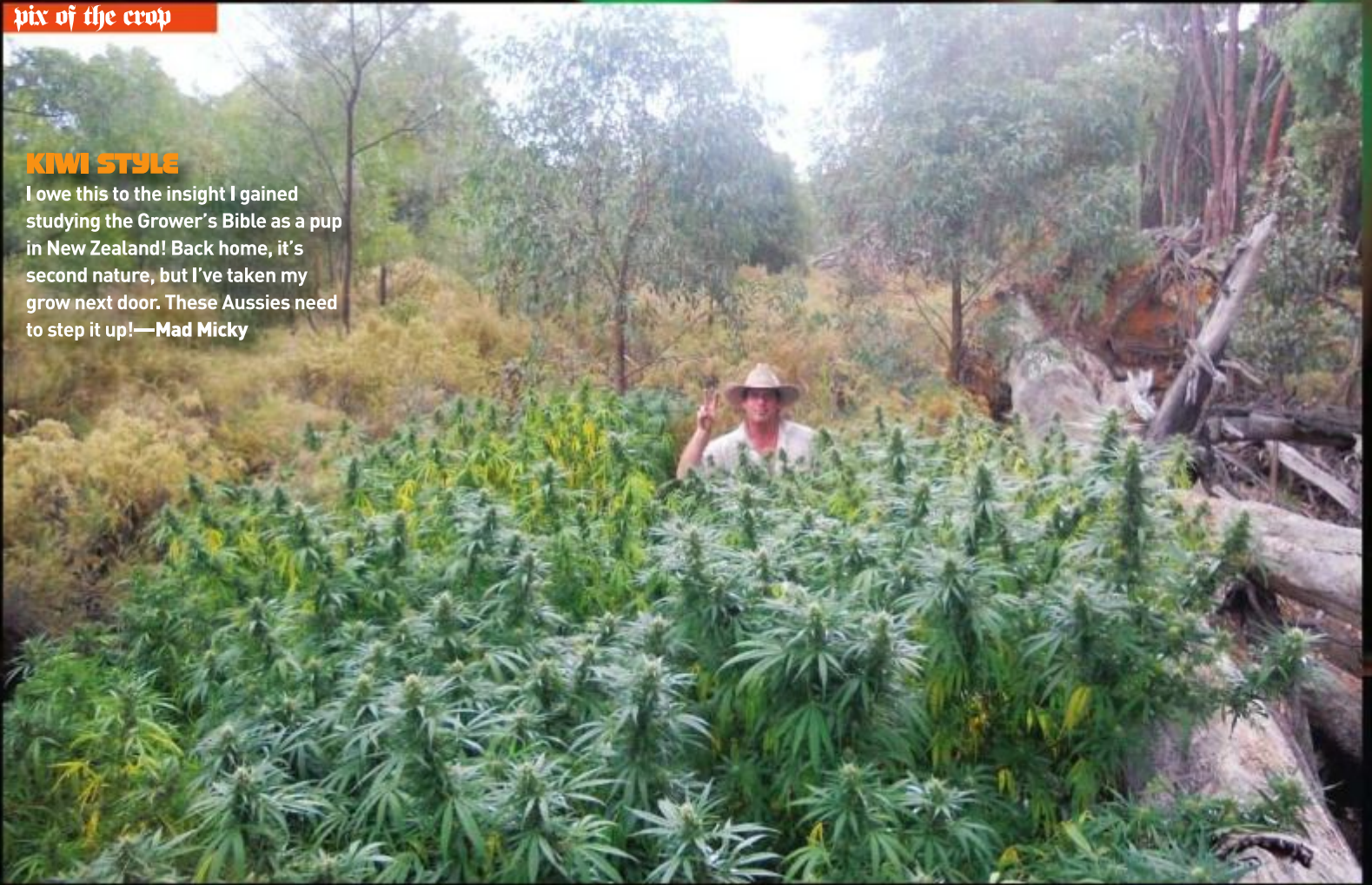
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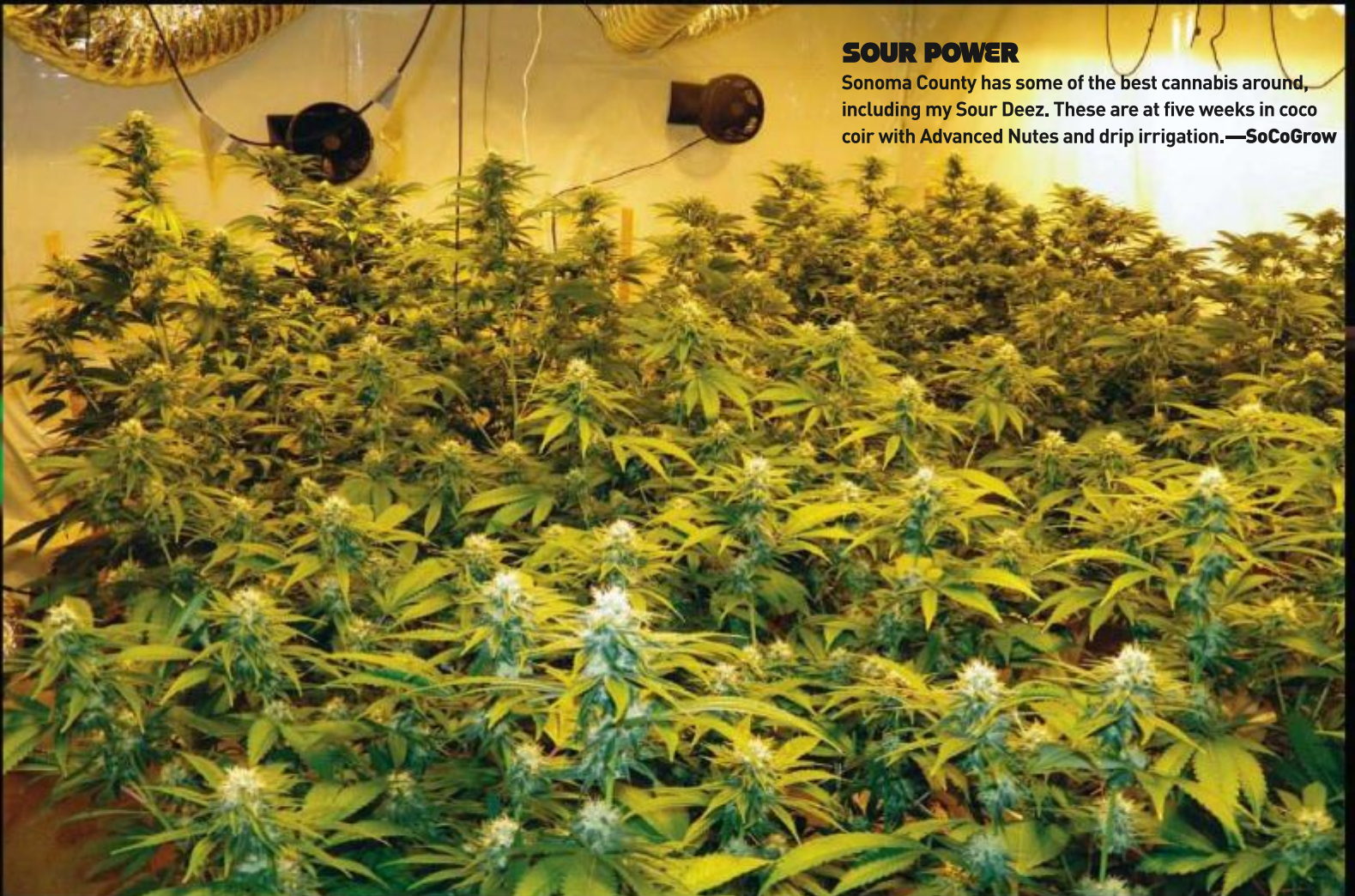
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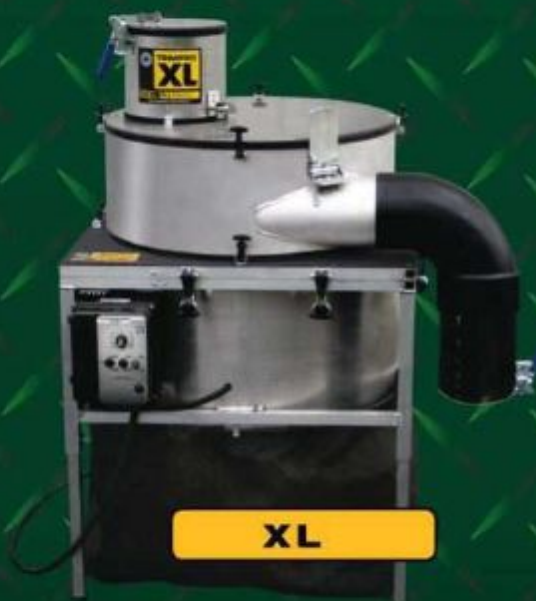
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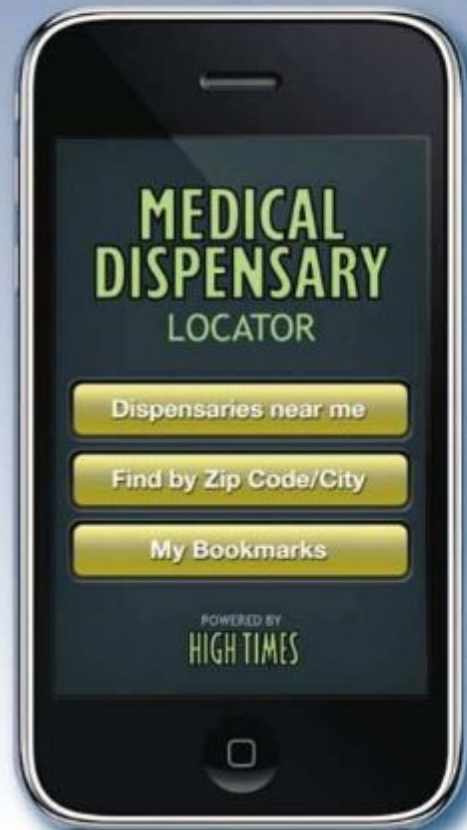
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The raiding party found nothing beyond a small amount of marijuana, a pipe and a grinder. All of this happened right here in Columbia, MO, a city that has supposedly decriminalized cannabis—which meant that in order to arrest Mr. Whitworth that night, the authorities had to charge him with child endangerment. Later, most of the charges were dropped, and the end result was a single drug-paraphernalia charge and a \$300 fine.

After seeing that video, I was more compelled to take action than at any other time in my life. So my husband Donald and I formed CoMoCitizens, a local

group focused on ending these unnecessary and dangerous police actions. We started by researching SWAT-style drug raids, and found that they occur up to 100 times per day in the US and are all too often

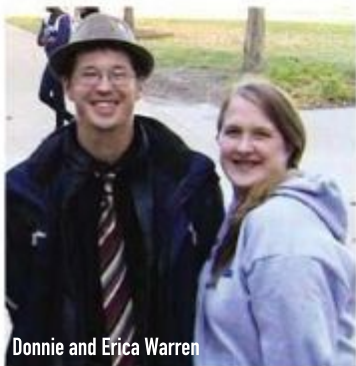
used to execute routine search warrants. Even worse, many of the targets in these raids turn out to be completely innocent—people who were falsely accused or even victims of mistaken identity.

CoMoCitizens began our outreach by speaking during meetings of the local city council and police review board, followed by talks directly with our police chief. Along the way, I had the good fortune to meet Amber Langston, a former Students for Sensible Drug Policy staff member, at one of our meetings. Amber made a huge impression on me with her passion for the cause, and she inspired Donald and I to start an SSDP chapter at our own school, Columbia College.

I'm pleased to report that we've already had some great success with

our chapter, and we're both so excited to have found such powerful new allies in our fight to ensure that SWAT raids for nonviolent crimes come to an end and more compassionate, sensible drug policies prevail. As part of the SSDP team, we feel great knowing that we've now got an energized national movement behind us as we continue to push this issue to the forefront.

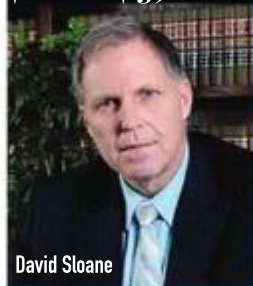
—Erica Warren, Columbia College SSDP



Donnie and Erica Warren

SWAT-STYLE DRUG RAIDS OCCUR UP TO 100 TIMES PER DAY IN THE US AND ARE ALL TOO OFTEN USED TO EXECUTE ROUTINE SEARCH WARRANTS.

freedom fighter



David Sloane

420 CRUISER

DAVID SLOANE TRANSFORMS A POLICE VEHICLE INTO A 'TRUTH' CAR.

NORML chapters across the country are always looking for creative ways to bring the message of ending marijuana prohibition to the masses. This month's Freedom Fighter is using one of the symbols of our oppression to make a point about freedom.

David Sloane, Esq., is the

public information officer for our Dallas/Fort Worth chapter in Texas. With some help from supporters, he acquired an old police cruiser and rebranded it the "Truth Enforcement Car" for DFW NORML.

The cruiser is Car No. 420, naturally, with the DFW NORML logo and NORML name on both sides of the car. A big cannabis leaf adorns the hood, and instead of "To protect and serve," the motto reads "Legislate, Educate, and Medicate." In order to remain street legal, David replaced the reds and blues in the light bar with greens. NORML founder Keith Stroup warned him that he needed to be extra careful and should never allow any contraband in the car, since this would definitely be one vehicle that was sure to attract the scrutiny of police.

Sure enough, as David reports, "Keith Stroup's crystal ball seems to be working fine. I just got stopped in the Truth Enforcement Car. I was driving under the speed limit. A traffic unit started kicking up dirt and gravel coming onto the freeway before I even passed him, indicating to me they've been watching for that car. He asked me to turn the light bar on. What the hey—the green lights are legal. He just kind of shook his head and chuckled. Then he asked if he could get some pictures!"

Nor is David finished with reefer roadsters yet. "I've got my eye on this old ambulance," he tells us. "I plan to remake it as the 'Medical Marijuana Truth Car.'"

So if you're ever driving around the Dallas-Fort Worth area, now you have another reason to keep your eyes open!—Russ Belville, NORML Outreach Coordinator and host of the *NORML Show Live*. Visit live.norml.org.



ASK DR MITCH

Dr. Mitch,
Is it possible to make a cannabis *snus*?

Jaako K.

Hi Jaako, *Snus*—packets of moist, steam-pasteurized snuff from Sweden—provide nicotine to users who tuck them under the lips; the nicotine gets absorbed through the mucus membranes of the mouth and creates an effect similar to smoking cigarettes.

They're somewhat akin to chewing tobacco but don't seem to require any spitting. Cannabis tinctures work in a comparable way, but minus the little packet of plant matter. I'm sure that with a little ingenuity, a cannabis *snus* is possible; however, given how easy it is to make tincture, it's probably not necessary.

I know you said that cannabidiol (CBD) doesn't alter consciousness, but what about cannabinol?

Clark B.

Hi Clark, Cannabinol (CBN) is psychoactive, but it's nowhere near as strong as THC. When your body breaks THC down, some of it is turned into cannabinol. At least one study suggests that THC and CBN together have a stronger effect than THC alone, but it doesn't have a huge impact. CBN may prove to have some other novel effects that we haven't discovered yet—but so far, it's no THC.

A friend of mine in South Africa says that a plant there called "dagga" is just like weed and is not (yet) illegal here in the US. Should we all try it?

Alan Paton

Hi Alan, In South Africa, "dagga" is slang for cannabis, so you've probably already tried it. But there's another South African plant, *Leonotis leonurus*, which is also called "wild dagga." It isn't scheduled in the US, creates a modest euphoria, and combats pain and inflammation. Nevertheless, wild dagga contains no cannabinoids, seems to have some ill effects on the liver and kidneys of rats at high doses, and reportedly tastes pretty nasty when smoked. So I'd say it's probably best to stick to the plant we already know.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of *Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

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FROM RUSSIA WITH BUD

OUR GANJA GOURMAND CONSIDERS HER DESERT-ISLAND DISH. BY ASHLEY BOUDREAU



If I were stranded for an ungodly amount of time on some savage island, I could survive solely on Russian coffeecake. I proved this while I was in New York recently for 10 days. Though it's neither standard Russian fare nor traditional coffeecake, this cousin to the babka is perfect zombie-apocalypse survival food. But don't bother looking for it in your local grocery stores, because they probably won't have it. Even in Manhattan, it can be a challenge to procure—my generally unflappable sister wasted an entire afternoon there prowling for said pastry while cursing my name, even though she's a master of the Zipcar/iPhone method of urban-jungle navigation.

Furthermore, finding proper recipe guidance online is next to impossible, so we're going have to butcher this recipe at home. This kosher treat starts with yeast-laden, brioche-style dough, so to do it the old-fashioned way, we're looking at sponges and cultures and warm water and multiple risings and the punching of goopy dough in dark places and something involving a rabbi. It could be tricky for the average shiksa.

Do feel free to make it as complicated as you'd like if you're a Jewish pastry chef from Eastern Europe, an old-fashioned babushka or simply a better person than I am. If you're making the dough from scratch, you can use a standard brioche recipe and load it up with cold ganja butter. (Just be careful not to exceed a gram of weed per serving or you might end up drooling on yourself and wondering if you've had a stroke because your face has gone numb and your hair feels like tentacles Thanks, nice med-pot lady up in Maine—that was *really*



strong candy.) Or you can simply follow the rising instructions on a package of pre-made frozen bread-loaf dough and relegate the ganja butter to the filling mixture instead.

Most stoners I know don't have the time or inclination to make dough from scratch because baking is a very precise, scientific thing. If you get it wrong, then the halls fill with dark, acrid smoke, someone trips the fire alarm, and all the students go pouring out into the parking lot while your Home Economics teacher pulls an ominous, smoking, obsidian slab of failure out of the oven, a wretched culinary mockery from the depths of Mordor. And it's all your fault.

Sorry ... adolescent flashback.

Anyway, this recipe is dedicated to the New G Nation guys over at the Roots Collective dispensary in Woodland Hills, CA—because they've got the good shit, and because they've never given me grief about the bad things I do to pastries. Whassup, mensches? ✨

EASY RUSSIAN COFFEECAKE

Let the dough rise according to the instructions and then chill it overnight. Before you roll out the dough, prepare the filling mixture.

For the filling:

- 10 grams sativa shake or 5 grams bud
- 6 tbsp unsalted butter
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup light brown sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup ground pecans
- 6 oz apricot paste or cake filling
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins soaked in rum and star anise
(I soaked golden raisins and one pod of star anise in dark, spiced Bermuda rum for three days).

Melt the butter over low heat in a double-boiler. Add the ganja shake. Simmer for 45 minutes to an hour (it should smell nutty but not scorched). Let cool slightly and strain, then squeeze out the vegetative matter. Set the ganja butter aside in the fridge to cool slightly. Then mix in the brown sugar, ground pecans, apricot paste or cake filling, and rum-soaked raisins. Be sure to reserve an additional one-eighth cup of nuts, two tablespoons

of brown sugar and two tablespoons of butter for the topping.

Next, roll out the chilled dough into a thin rectangle and spread the filling mixture evenly across it. Roll the dough into a spiral around the mixture (it should look like a giant jellyroll). Twist it slightly and place into a greased 8 1/2" x 4 1/2" loaf pan. Brush the top with butter. Cover and let rise for about 45 minutes.

Stab holes into the dough to help it vent and press down. Bake it at 350°F for 40 minutes; watch it carefully and cover it with foil when it starts to brown. Uncover it, brush the top with butter again, sprinkle the topping over it and continue to bake until it's uniformly golden brown. (Bear in mind that I live below sea level and have a small crappy oven, so your cooking time may vary slightly.) Keep an eye on it and adjust your cooking time if needed: Finding the correct balance between undercooked and overly dry dough can be a bit daunting, so don't be afraid to tinker. Cool completely before serving.

Stones 10—or a single woman on a savage island for days on end.

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JUSTICE SMELLS

A NEW SUPREME COURT DECISION DEPLETES OUR RIGHTS EVEN MORE.

In a case decided in May, *Kentucky v. King*, the US Supreme Court ruled that cops who smell marijuana coming from your home can break down the door and arrest you—just so long as they knock first and claim to have heard you destroying evidence.

They don't need a search warrant or probable cause, either. Today in America, police can now randomly patrol neighborhoods and apartment complexes sniffing around for pot. When they smell it, they can knock on your door and then break it down, claiming they heard suspicious noises within.



Cops can now sniff and raid.

The smell of marijuana burning does indicate to police in many jurisdictions that a crime is occurring behind that door—the possession of at least a small amount of pot. In Kentucky, however, such a first offense would be a misdemeanor carrying a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$500 fine. It would take possession of more than eight ounces of cannabis on a first offense to qualify as a felony.

But the police—not knowing King or having any probable cause to go after him—essentially kicked down his door on the “exigent circumstance” that he might be

The Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution states: “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

In 1980, writing for the Supreme Court in *Payton v. New York*, Justice Stevens reiterated: “In terms that apply equally to seizures of property and to seizures of persons, the Fourth Amendment has drawn a firm line at the entrance to the house. Absent exigent circumstances, that threshold may not reasonably be crossed without a warrant.”

Post *Kentucky v. King*, the smell of a burning flower and the sounds of “scurrying” are regrettably now the “exigent circumstances” needed to “reasonably” cross that “firm line” without a warrant. Residents who “attempt to destroy evidence have only themselves to blame” when police burst in, said Justice Samuel Alito Jr., writing for an 8-1 majority.

In her dissent, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said she feared the ruling provided police with an easy way to ignore the Fourth Amendment’s clear protections against unreasonable searches and seizures. She said the amendment’s “core requirement” is that officers must have probable cause and a valid search warrant before they enter a house.

“How ‘secure’ do our homes remain if police, armed with no warrant, can pound on doors at will and ... forcibly enter?” Ginsburg asked.

destroying evidence of a lowly misdemeanor. Is it “reasonable” to permit such a drastic violation of a citizen’s Fourth Amendment rights over a potential misdemeanor?

Alito also wrote: “When law enforcement officers who are not armed with a warrant knock on a door, they do no more than any private citizen might do. And whether the person who knocks on the door and requests the opportunity to speak is a police officer or a private citizen, the occupant has no obligation to open the door or to speak. Cf. *Florida v. Royer*, 460 U.S. 491, 497-498, (1983). [‘H]e may decline to listen to the questions at all and may go on his way’].” But, Alito continues, “When the police knock on a door but the occupants choose not to respond or to speak, ‘the investigation will have reached a conspicuously low point,’ and the occupants ‘will have the kind of warning that even the most elaborate security system cannot provide.’”

In other words, if the police knock at your door without a warrant, they are doing nothing more than a private citizen may do. But if you refuse to answer and make a noise that the police regard as suspicious, then they—unlike the private citizen—now have the “exigent circumstance” needed to break down your door and arrest you.

Which leads me to ask: What qualifies as a suspicious noise? I suppose the sound of garbage disposals, trash compactors and flushing toilets would be obvious answers. But in *Kentucky v. King*, “scurrying” was enough.—**Allen St. Pierre, executive director of NORML**
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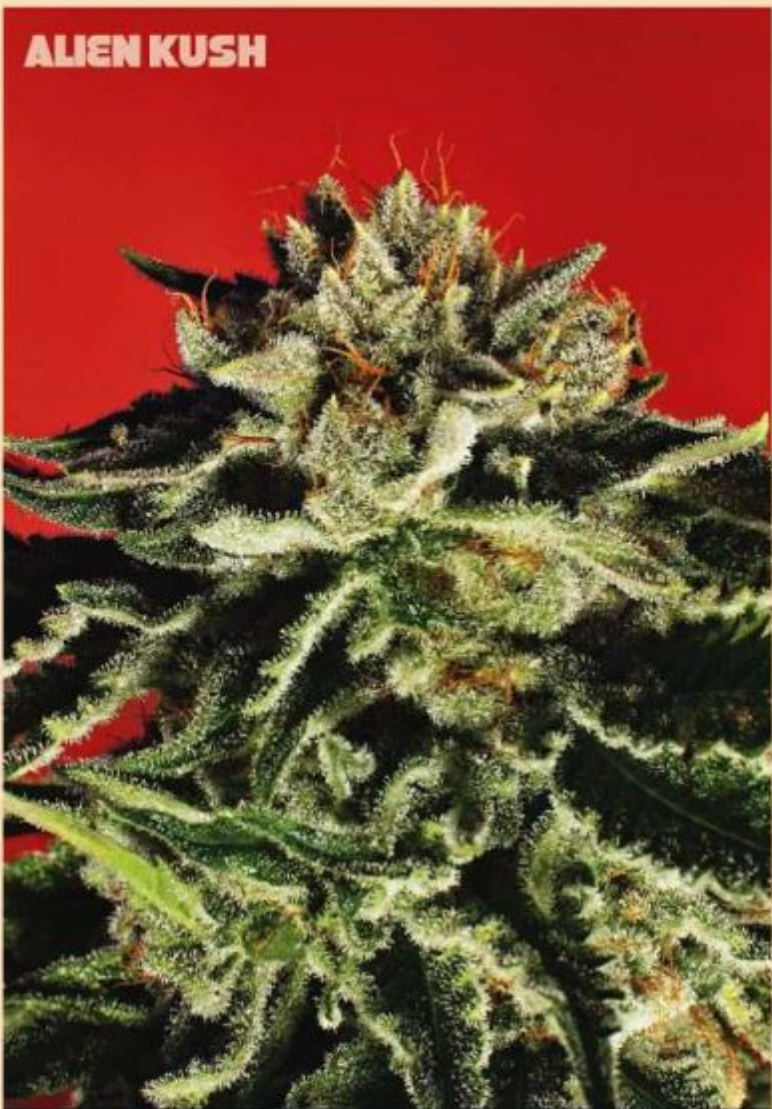
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THMQ

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS



MARKET ANALYSIS

Kush retained its position in the top pot spot and narrowly edged out Diesel as October's most submitted strain. Cheese returned to the list after missing the cut in September and has now made the top five submitted strains four times in 2011. Finally, Trainwreck reached the top five for the first time in nearly a year (November 2010). Its current average price is \$50 higher than it was last November. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$345), Diesel (\$435), Purps (\$416), Cheese (\$358) and Trainwreck (\$408).

Index Watch: All indices finished above their previous month's average with the exception of Schwag (-\$10). The US Price and Mids indices experienced the largest increases from last month (+\$25 and +\$28, respectively)—in fact, the Mids Index reached a 16-month high at \$293 and finished October \$20 above its year-to-date average.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.

Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$360** (last month: \$335; YTD: \$348)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$409** (\$391, \$412)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$293** (\$265, \$273)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$100** (\$110, \$104)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Tuscaloosa	Purps	\$500
ARIZONA	Phoenix	Kush	\$420
ARKANSAS	Paron	Blueberry	\$200
CALIFORNIA	Sacramento San Diego	Cheese Blackberry Kush	\$275 \$220
COLORADO	Denver	AK-47 Golden Goat Kush	\$350 \$380 \$325
CONNECTICUT	New London	Diesel	\$400
FLORIDA	Melbourne Beach	Granddaddy Purps	\$325
GEORGIA	Atlanta	Island Sweet Skunk	\$460
ILLINOIS	Chicago Rockford	G-13 OG Kush	\$400 \$400
INDIANA	Richmond	Trainwreck Blue Cheese Pre-'98 Bubba Kush	\$375 \$350 \$350
IOWA	Des Moines	Strawberry Kush Granddaddy Purps	\$340 \$340
KENTUCKY	Louisville	Strawberry Cough	\$400
MAINE	Portland	White Berry	\$400
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Super Silver Haze	\$375
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	Diesel	\$400
MICHIGAN	Detroit	Cheesewreck	\$450
MINNESOTA	Stillwater	Hashberry	\$420
MISSISSIPPI	Meridian Jackson	Diesel Afghan Purps Diesel White Widow	\$475 \$350 \$500 \$500 \$500
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	Lemon Skunk Candy Kush	\$300 \$320
NEW YORK	New York	Sour Diesel Strawberry Cough	\$500 \$470
NORTH CAROLINA	Asheville Jacksonville	Island Sweet Skunk Trainwreck	\$300 \$400
OHIO	Dayton	Death Star	\$350
PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia	Blueberry	\$375
TENNESSEE	Memphis	Bubba Kush Sour Diesel	\$350 \$400
TEXAS	Austin	Green Queen	\$285
VIRGINIA	Virginia Beach	Romulan	\$350
WEST VIRGINIA	Morgantown	Diesel Kush	\$370 \$380
WASHINGTON	Bellingham	Blue Dream	\$280
INTERNATIONAL (prices listed in Canadian dollars or British pounds)			
CANADA	Ottawa Toronto Welland	Jack Herer Purple Kush Lemon Haze Shishkaberry Indoor	C\$150 C\$165 C\$220 C\$230 C\$180
ENGLAND	Gloucestershire Manchester	UK Cheese Blue Cheese	£210 £250

Strawberry Kush - \$340

Des Moines, IOWA

"The buds are dense and covered in sticky trichs. Super-potent fruity smell when you open the jar."

Cheesewreck - \$450

Detroit, MICHIGAN

"UK Cheese crossed with Arcata E-32 Trainwreck. Very pleasant smoke! Cheesy-lemomy mix makes a smooth, creamy taste!"

Diesel - \$500

Jackson, MISSISSIPPI

"That's the price you pay when you live in

the South. A lot of people do it but don't like to admit it. Until we can educate people in the South that it's not really an evil weed, prices will remain high!"

Blue Cheese - £250

Manchester, ENGLAND

"Nice, smooth smoke that's very powerful and tastes awesome!"

Blue Dream - \$280

Bellingham, WASHINGTON

"I personally cultivated this Blue Dream - it's an amazing strain with a good clean high."



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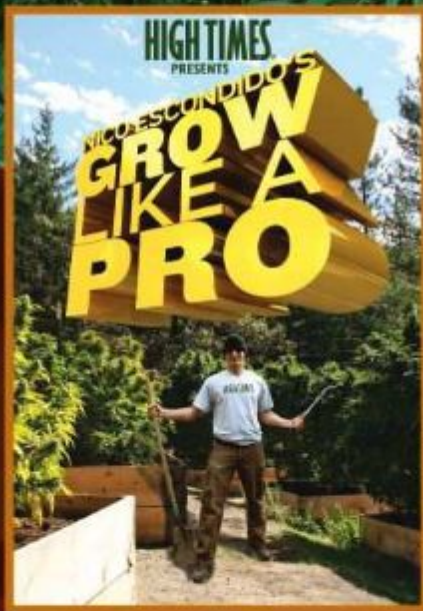
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–Dan Skye, HIGH TIMES Executive Editor

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BY DANNY DANKO
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Marijuana plants need nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in varying amounts throughout their development, but it's no good feeding them if they won't take it in. Now you can make those roots pucker up with **Ubiogrow**, a micronutrient formula that promotes uptake in water culture and beneficial microbes in soil setups. The all-organic solution contains only trace amounts of naturally occurring N, P and K, meaning no added chemical salts will build up in your soil or hydroponic lines. And you can use as much as you want: Ubiogrow won't burn roots or harm plants in the event of an overdose.

Price: 6 oz, \$11.99; 32 oz, \$37.49; 1 gal, \$119.99; 5 gal, \$524.99
Contact: Ubiogrow, 800-381-9766, ubiogrow.com

BOOSTER SHOT

Gardeners have long known the benefits of carbon dioxide for stimulating growth, but refillable CO₂ tanks are unwieldy and anything but environmentally friendly. Now you can deliver a steady dose of carbon dioxide anywhere in your growroom—organically—with **CO2 Boost**, which harnesses the byproducts of mycological reactions in a specially formulated compost mix. This mushroom compost comes in buckets that you connect to a pump and hoses that can run anywhere in your growroom. After your initial purchase of the bucket and pump, just replace the bucket when your compost is spent. Each bucket should last up to three months when used properly.

Price: One-time bucket and pump, \$135; replacement bucket, \$110
Contact: CO2 Boost, 800-955-8384, co2boost.com



TRICHOME TWISTER

Mechanical pollen extractors have been on the market for decades with little change in form or function, but every now and then, someone tries to build a better kief trap. Yet for all the trouble, nothing really beats the ol' bare-bones screen-and-drum setup of the **Original Resinator**. Its simple, sturdy design boasts a symmetrical motor alignment that won't shake or shimmy while it does its thing. A clear cylinder encloses the screen drum so you can watch the kief amassing. A large trap door makes for easy recovery. And that's it—nothing fancy, just everything you need to make hash.

Price: \$579.99
Contact: The Original Resinator, theoriginalresinator.com



OCEAN GROWN

Farmers have long looked to the sea for cheap soil enrichment such as seaweed (kelp), rotted fish, and the beneficial salts and minerals contained in nourishing waters. Billed as "Nature's Crystal Compost," the new **BioBalance Foliar Spray and Soil Additive** contains many of the trace elements needed for pot plants to achieve their true potential and activate enzyme function. Mineral-rich seawater is dehydrated by the sun, resulting in a unique organic application composed of sea solids, Himalayan pink sea salt and charged glacier rock dust. Once dissolved, these special crystals become the perfect additive with just the right amount of essential elements. Apply by foliar feeding with a diluted solution, or mix 2 teaspoons with every 3 gallons of soil for the full benefits of these valuable mineral salts from the sea.

Price: 8 oz, \$19.95
Contact: Home Grow Depot, 877-821-GROW (4769), homegrowdepot.com

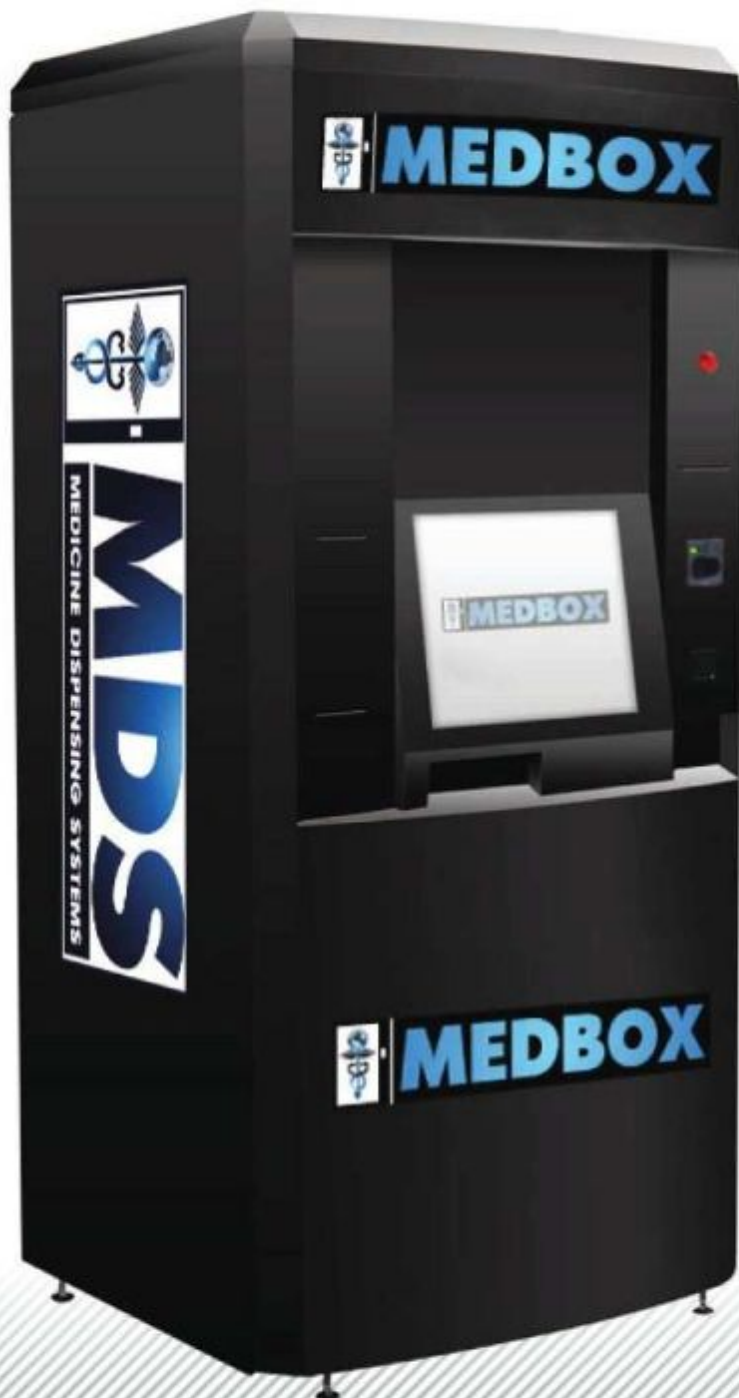
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THE GREEN PROGRESSION

The Green House name covers a chain of coffeeshops, a clothing line, a seed company, a film production house and more. The Green House founder and owner, Arjan—the self-proclaimed “King of Cannabis”—can be controversial at times. He is a man with no fear, a man who forges ahead and—despite the for-profit nature of his various enterprises—believes in the same cause we all do. We sat down with the man behind the cannabis business for a candid Q&A and get the scoop on his latest contribution to the world of weed—his innovative, high-tech, quarter-million-dollar seed-selecting machine.

Tell us how you got started in the cannabis industry.

I went to India when I was very young—only 16 or 17—and stayed in the mountains for a week, hanging out and smoking. I encountered an old, old man who talked about cannabis—that it can overthrow governments. At first, I thought he was crazy. He told me all kinds of things about this plant—that it didn’t hate me. He was very special. I didn’t know how special he was until much later, of course.

I went back to Holland and didn’t think much about it. Then, in 1985, we started to grow. At that time in Holland, pot was not very big—in coffeeshops, it was 95 percent hashish being smoked and about 5 percent cannabis. It all came from Nigeria or Jamaica.

I was interested in growing indoors, and I did it successfully—all of the shops were buying my weed. But I was interested in different varieties. I grew up in Africa and Asia and saw a lot of different cultures. I have background as a chef, so I know tastes. I was more interested in very special highs and nicer tastes than just the Skunk that I was growing.

I had a big discussion with my wife. I thought we should divert from the mainstream and make a niche market. I was growing a kind of *sativa* at that time. I was very pleased with it—I thought it was the best in the world, like every grower does. I went to the coffeeshops and dropped off a few kilos and said, “Please try it. It’s less yield per square meter, it’s a longer flowering time, so it costs a little bit more. But at least try it—you don’t have to pay, you get it for free.”

What strain was that?

We don’t know. It was probably a variety that came from South India, but we’re not really sure because we don’t even have the plants anymore. We were just working our way. At that time, there were no books; we were just trying to do something indoors. After two or three months, I went back to the coffeeshops, and they returned everything—they said it smelled like cat piss. There was no market for it, and there was already no market for weed.

Then I thought, “If you believe so much in this product, why not start your own shop?” We



Arjan (right) and Franco showcase the Seed Selector at Spannabis in Barcelona.

opened in 1992. The first two years, we had no people, nobody passing by, in the middle of nowhere—we only had pot, and we were going broke.

So how did you turn things around?

In '93, I was asked if I wanted to participate in the Cannabis Cup. I'd never heard of HIGH TIMES—we forgot all about it until November. Suddenly, we had a few hundred Americans in front of our nose, and the rest is history. We won most of the Cups, and the tourists started coming.

We started developing our own brand. The first thing we did was invite the mayor and the police. Of course, both didn’t show up. But we made ourselves different—an artist café. We made everything ourselves: mosaics and water tubes on the ceiling with lamps coming down. It was very groovy. People appreciated the experience. It encouraged a lot of coffeeshop owners to change to my way. Many went a little bit into the Indian spiritual look and theme. It was good for the industry, because a lot of bad-looking shops closed.

What’s made you successful?

You think and you create. We are a very creative

company. All of the people in our company like to create things. We have attracted people to our shops. We opened a few more shops and started a seed company because there was high demand for seeds. We are by far the biggest seed company in the world. Last year, we sold more than 450,000 packs. That’s more than the next three seed companies combined worldwide. We have 3,000 outlets now.

How did the *Strain Hunters* documentary series develop?

For a long time, I had the idea of going to the jungle to show what we do. We never did because it was all very dangerous. But the climate is changing, especially in America in the last few years. It’s getting more legal—not only in America, but in Spain, Italy, Portugal, Belgium—so we decided maybe it’s time to show the world what we really do.

So we created our DVD series *Strain Hunters*. It’s been very good to go mainstream. We’re like *National Geographic*. We’ve created a platform for the industry to be accepted. People see that we are a normal, legitimate business. Now, in airports, people approach me and shake hands—normal people, with nothing to

The delicate and tedious task of selecting seeds has been transformed.



do with our industry, who say it was a really good documentary and it changed their mind about cannabis.

We show the people of the world. So many Indian people at the Cup tell me they are proud that I showed India in that way. And we just released *Morocco Strain Hunters*. Nobody ever has shot Morocco in the way we did—it's forbidden by the king. And we got permission. We filmed everything.

How are you perceived in Holland?

I think everybody recognizes that I'm the front-

runner for the coffee shops. I'm the spokesman for the Cannabis Retailers Association for more than 10 years. It's good to have a few people that set out the direction where we should go: don't go too crazy, talk to the government, get everybody together to fight new laws that are not good for us.

People have sniped at you for spending thousands of dollars on marketing. Has it been worth it?

You always have jealous people, but that you have in every industry. It's a game, you know? I

remember at the '94 Cup, we pulled up with two buses in front of the door with Green House signs. Everybody was mad. I said, "Guys, these people are spending a few thousand dollars coming from the other side of the ocean. Let's treat them well. They'll go back to America with a good message and send all their friends when they have a good time. So why not put those buses in front of the door?"

A year later, everybody had buses. A lot of coffeeshops still don't get it. Our marketing is guerrilla marketing. We rule the Internet. We are official partners with YouTube. We have a contract with them—we're getting paid. We are one of the few in the world.

Basically, I think all things in this industry should be a little bit more professional.

What is the Green House message?

We're a clean coffeeshop with clean people, with good customers, with a good story. We want to be open, be transparent, show the world what we are doing. Nothing is secret. We make sure everybody sees us, and we make sure to have a platform to explain the Green House.

What holds up progress in the industry?

Real politicians won't stand up and say, "Okay, now we're going to decriminalize or tolerate or legalize." This is not yet happening like in the States. Not very many people smoke in Holland, so the politicians are not going to burn their hands on us and go screaming to the media: "Oh, let's legalize the coffeeshops!" If the churches are against him, he's not going to get re-elected.

I tell politicians there is 10 times less hard-drugs abuse here than in the countries around us. We have much fewer problems with AIDS and other diseases related to drug use. These are figures that they can't get around. If you want to be religious, it's your choice—if you want to believe in a guy that walked on the world 2,000 years ago, it's your choice. But I don't think someone who doesn't harm anybody should be harmed.

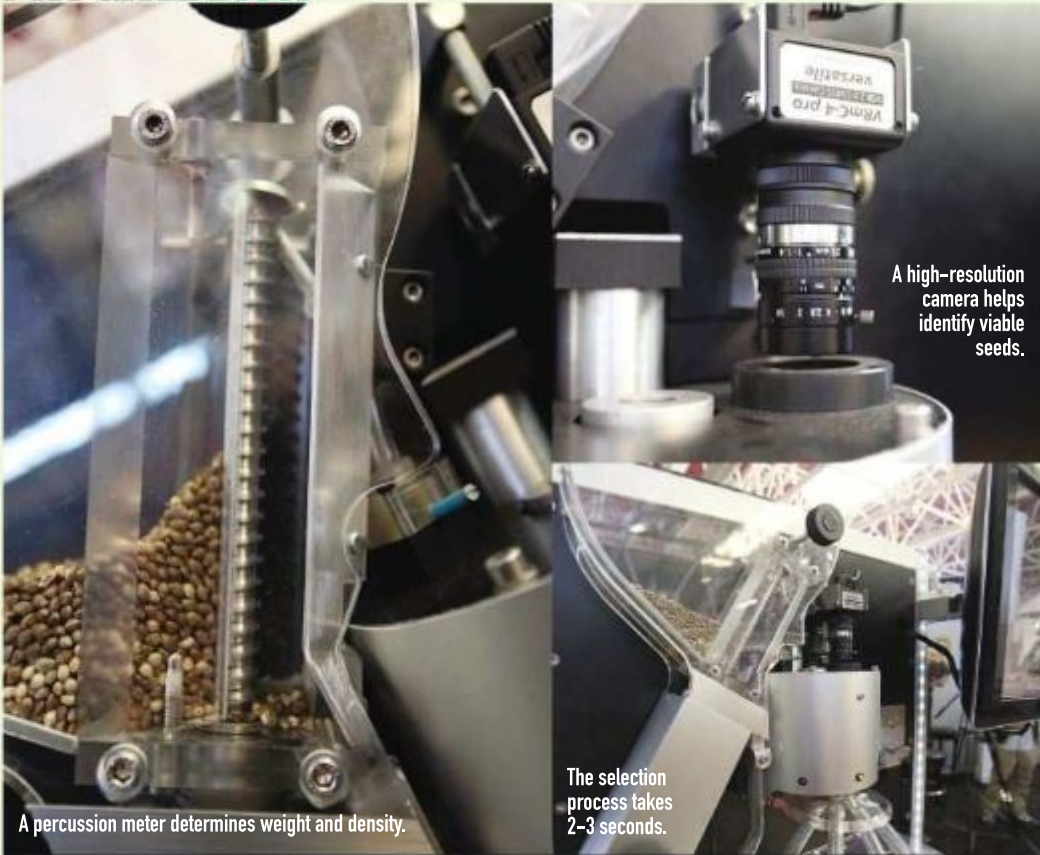
This is the freedom of our rights. As a Christian, shouldn't you be in favor of marijuana because it helps people? We should be rational, not irrational.

Do you think there's a connection between pot and spirituality?

It's a very important aspect for some people, but not for everyone. Maybe what we should talk about is the fact that 80 percent of the world's diseases—cancer or whatever—comes from a wrong way of living. Stress, eating raw meat—whatever.

It's a very important message. Spirituality for many people is something far away; they are scared of it and are embarrassed by it. If people would smoke marijuana to relax and think spiritually, that's good. Calm down—watch a movie with your family, take time with your kids and chill. I think we will have a lot less cancer in this world if people can get with that true spirit.

—Dan Skye

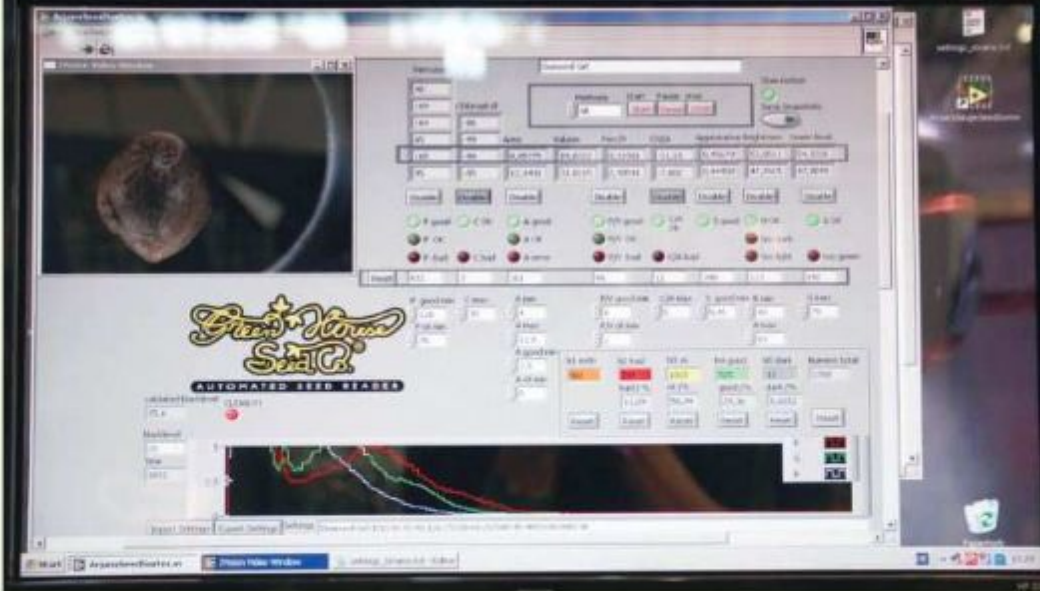


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In a nut (or seed) shell, the Seed Selector is a viability test for seed germination.

German engineers built the machine, which took more than three years of research and development to finally bring to fruition. The machine itself weighs over 60 pounds and must be moved in a flight case due to the sensitive nature of its instruments. With a specially designed software program, the Seed Selector is able to sort through tens of thousands of seeds and determine which ones will germinate and which will not.

Until now, the selection of seeds could be done in a variety of ways, but it always involved a labor-intensive use of manpower. The task of selecting viable seeds is not only extremely tedious but also very delicate; only certain well-trained and very experienced people have acquired the sensitivity and eye for detail necessary to do the job by hand. The Seed Selector, however, can sort as many (if not more) seeds in a day—and with much higher accuracy and precision.

The Green House Seed Company now uses the machine to select its seeds before they are packaged, to guarantee customers that its product is of the highest quality the industry can offer. “We are already working at making this prototype into a real product—one that one day will be the standard of the industry to certify viable,

healthy cannabis seeds,” says Franco Loja, manager of the Green House Seed Company. “We have been devoting a significant part of our profits to research and development, to the benefit of our customers as well as the cannabis industry as a whole. It is a standardized, scientific and efficient way of selecting cannabis seeds. This new tool to select cannabis seeds will change forever the way we work.”

HOW IT WORKS

The Seed Selector is fully automated and designed to select seeds based on several parameters. The machine is fed seeds and, through the use of a percussion meter and high-resolution camera, divides its output into five containers. The seeds are placed in these containers based on their size, weight and appearance (colors, striping, etc).

Among the five containers, one is used to collect immature seeds (on average, a batch of unprocessed seeds will contain from 10 to 20 percent white, immature or underdeveloped seeds). Another container collects seeds that need to be reprocessed (meaning the machine was unsure of their quality). The remaining three containers collect the good seeds, divided into three distinct batches based on aspect, size and pattern.

The machine's first step is to drop each seed on a percussion sensor that determines its weight and density. Then a high-definition camera measures the area and volume of the seed and takes several pictures to identify the color and pattern on the seed shell.

The moisture content is calculated with algorithms from the size, weight, volume and density of each individual seed. The germination factor is guaranteed by measuring the chlorophyll content present between the seed embryo and shell. A specially designed algorithm then decides if the seed contains enough water and chlorophyll to be able to germinate.

The Seed Selector combines mechanical and electronic elements and is controlled by a unique combination of a digital processor and a control-and-measurement unit specially developed for this machine. The software and algorithms are unique and have never been utilized before.

The selection process takes between two and three seconds per seed, allowing the selection of from one to two pounds of seeds every 24 hours. The parameters for selection (color, shape, size and density) are set by the operator for every batch and will usually vary from strain to strain. The operator (such as a seed breeder) knows which characteristics are most desirable in the seeds of a particular strain when it comes to germination, and so

the machine's programming is customizable for this reason.

You have to give credit where credit is due: This innovation is the first step in yet another exciting new industry progression, and it has come courtesy of Arjan and the Green House. —Nico Escondido

See Arjan's seed machine:



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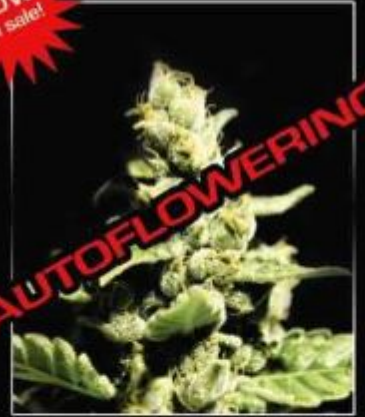
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SUPER CRITICAL AUTO



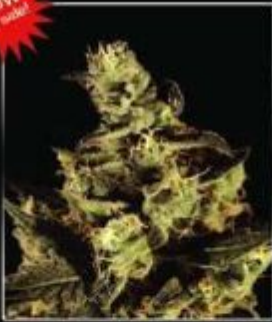
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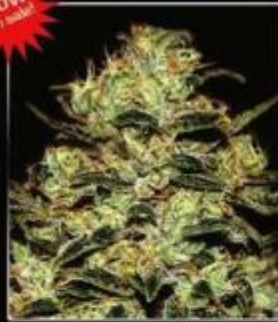


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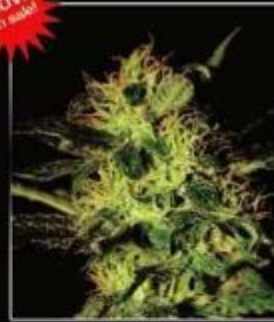
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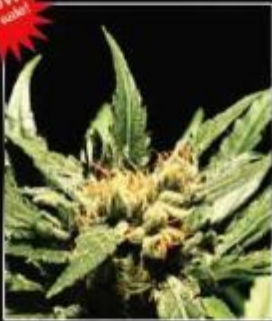
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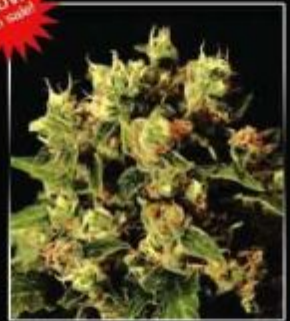
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DEAR DANKO

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO



This system uses a trellis to keep plant tops closer to the lights for better efficiency.

GROW CABINET

I'm emailing you from BTV in Vermont! How are ya? I've loved the magazine and website for years, and I'd like to ask a question on the size of growrooms/boxes. I was looking at the Closet 400 Indoor Hydroponic System, but I'm planning something about half that size. My space measures 31 inches tall by 15.5 inches wide by 15.5 inches deep. Do you think this is too small for a single plant? What would you recommend? Appreciate your advice!

Dan A.

Dear Dan,

With a little bit of care and forethought, you can yield a decent amount of cannabis from a single plant in that amount of space. Thirty-one inches tall is only a little more than two feet of vertical grow area, and some of that limited space will be taken up by your lighting as well as the container holding your plants' roots. This will leave you with just under two feet of grow height, so you'll have to keep your plant quite short.

You'll be better off growing *indica*-dominant strains, and you should also consider using a trellising system such as the "screen of green" technique (ScrOG), in which chicken wire is used to create a level horizontal layer of buds under your light source. The growing plant shoots are con-

stantly tucked under the screen in order to fill up all of the available canopy space. In this way, you'll be able to increase the yield from your plant without increasing the size of your growbox.

FEEDING FRENZY

I was wondering if you can give me some info on what kind of fertilizer to use on my plant if it's in the vegetative stage and has only been growing for two and a half to three weeks. I'd really appreciate it!

Juanito

Dear Juanito,

Not Miracle-Gro—ha ha! But seriously, the vegetative stage requires a nitrogen-rich nutrient, and there are many great organic alternatives to using lab-made chemicals. Seaweed (kelp), liquid fish fertilizer and seabird guanos are all great for the vegetative stage and will provide plenty of nitrogen as well as many other beneficial micronutrients and natural soil enhancers.

Most nutrients you can purchase at the grow shop are formulated for either the vegetative or flowering stage. The ones you'll want to use for vegging will typically be called "Grow" or "Veg" (and the flowering ones "Bloom," "Bud" or "Flower"). Some will have two parts or more that you mix into your water before application to

the root zone, and most have micronutrient formulations that you should be adding as well.

MIRACLE NO

Hello, I'm a rookie grower with a couple of questions. I have a few seeds of an unknown strain that a very seasoned smoker called really potent smoke. I am interested in using Miracle-Gro potting soil because of the added nutrients but have never read in HT of this being used. My time, money and space are all very limited. What do you think of this idea? At what point do you think I will need to supplement the nutrients, if at all? Any help for this rookie would be greatly appreciated. Also, are your seed advertisers good about shipping to the US? How would you rate the risks of doing this? I've enjoyed reading HT and would appreciate any help you could give this rookie.

Bud

Dear Bud,

I'm not a big fan of Miracle-Gro soil products, for cannabis cultivation or otherwise. The mixes typically contain time-release nutrients meant for ornamental flowers more so than consumables such as vegetables and fruits. Also, the nutrients already mixed into the soil can be too "hot" for small young plants, meaning they'll be overfertilized and start showing signs of nutrient burn.



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Dear Danko

The distinctive "taco" shape of calcium and magnesium deficient leaves.



Miracle-Gro's "organic" mix contains composted bark, sphagnum peat moss and pasteurized poultry litter, which isn't really my preferred way to get nitrogen to my plants. On top of that, some Miracle-Gro products may contain metals such as lead, copper and zinc as well as arsenic. Some growers have even reported fungus gnats coming from new bags.

Miracle-Gro also owns Scott's Brand, the company that Monsanto licences to sell Round-Up, one of the most toxic pesticides still on the market. According to a Google search, Monsanto's nickname is the "most evil company in the world." Among their achievements are Agent Orange, DDT, Roundup and saccharine, so I don't think their emphasis is on the safety and health of the end user. Better to support your local grow shop and get a grow medium you can trust.

As for your seed question, the acquisition of live cannabis seeds is illegal in the US however, there are companies and wholesalers who do mail to the US as well as those who don't. Many Dutch companies choose not to mail directly here, but some from the UK, Spain and Canada do. Be sure to pick a reputable company that's been around for a few years and built up a reputation for consistency and customer service. I created the HIGH TIMES Seed Bank Hall of Fame featuring 10 such

companies, and the list has since grown to 30. Visit hightimes.com/seedbankhalloffame.

TACO LEAF

My leaves are curling upwards from the middle like a taco shell. Also, they look like they're crinkly with rounded edges, while the stems are streaked and the stalks are turning dark purple. What's the problem?

Hazey H.

Dear Hazey,

Those are the classic signs of a calcium and magnesium deficiency. If you've been adding a cal/mag supplement, then it's possible you have nutrient lockout due to pH fluctuation. Typically, low pH levels will cause the plant to become unable to take in magnesium, resulting in the kinds of symptoms you're describing. Most nutrient formulations contain enough of these micronutrients to avoid that problem, so raising your pH level from somewhere in the high 5's to more like 6.2 to 6.5 in soil or 6.0 to 6.3 in a hydroponic reservoir will usually do the trick.

If pH isn't the issue, you can use a calcium and magnesium additive solution found at any grow shop or online. This is preferable to Epsom salts and other homemade remedies, and the new leaf growth should come out green and uncrinkled.

STRAIN NOMENCLATURE

I'm a longtime subscriber and reader of HIGH TIMES. Me and the wifey are having a debate on naming our strains. We're longtime medical growers and have recently been getting into breeding our own varieties. I've got a Love Cheese female that I crossed with an AK-47 male. Is there already a name for that cross or should I give it one? I also have a Sour Kush/Headband female that I crossed with a male Da Purps, I can go on and on with my crosses, but what names should I give them? Should I stay with a name like Love 47 or something related to their heritage? Appreciate some help. Thanks!

BonGTokiN

Dear BonG,

Breeding your own strains can be a fun and rewarding experience, and the most successful cannabis breeders take copious notes and adhere to certain criteria when it comes to nomenclature. In the first case, your hybrid seeds would technically be a Love Cheese x AK-47 F1 (the female precedes the male). You can nickname it any way you want, but that's what you write in your notes.

Keep in mind that true breeding isn't just crossing males and females for seeds, but rather actually growing out large populations of the resulting seeds and then choosing the desirable traits to continue in the next generational cross. In this way, the cannabis gene pool is improved rather than muddled. Good luck!

THE RIGHT CURE

Greetings, Double D! First off, I'd like to thank you and your co-workers for doing what you do for us growers and smokers. Kudos, sir! My question is: When curing this fine plant, will an acrylic jar have more of an effect on the taste, look, smell, etc., of the finished product than glass? I've used both and can tell a bit of a difference between the two (glass being better, it seems). I have a feeling I know why, but I'd like to get your expert opinion on the matter to shed some light on using acrylic versus glass in the curing stage for best results.

The Mass Grass Man

Dear MGM,

Thanks for the kind words! As for curing, glass always works best. I shudder at the thought of a beautiful harvest of buds sitting in brown paper bags or plastic containers. Both will impart their flavors and odors into your precious pot, forever relegating it to subpar status, whereas glass will not. Why waste all that time growing in order to smoke an inferior product? The best glass jars are opaque or dark-colored on the outside to avoid light reaching the buds and degrading your stash.

GROWING PAIN

I just bought my first issue of HIGH TIMES in 20 years and sent in my subscription card the next day. I've got a problem and hope you can give me some advice. I want to grow a couple of plants for myself, and I have no interest in making a profit—maybe just give a little bit to some friends. Since I'm pretty much a lightweight myself, I don't need anything that's gonna "knock my dick in the dirt." A little bit goes a long way with me.

Now here's the problem: I'm a complete novice with no clue what I'm doing. And to make matters worse, I live in a one-bedroom apartment with a

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Dear Danko



Fluorescent lighting keeps these vegetating plants happy and thriving in this vertical hydroponic system.

somewhat snoopy landlady. I have a decent-sized closet to work with (5 feet high by 2 feet wide), but you'd be able to see light through the door cracks, and the odor might be an issue, too. The landlady probably won't recognize it, but just in case Officer Friendly should darken my doorstep sometime, I'd rather avoid it.

I've got a pretty good connection right now, but I'd like to do it myself just to say that I did and freak out my friends. I'll burn a bowl for you tonight.

Chris D.

Dear Chris,
It might seem odd, given that I spend most of my time trying to encourage people to grow their own, but in your case I'd say that you should hold off on cannabis farming until you're in a better situation. Too many people try to force a growroom into an undesirable location and end up jeopardizing their safety and livelihood in the process.

Since you have a decent connection, it's probably best to wait until you're in a situation where growing won't be such a risk. The combination of a nosy landlady, limited space and your admitted lack of growing abilities could prove disastrous. Next time you move, consider whether the new place could be compatible with an indoor garden and take it from there.

SAD STATE

I imagine you get letters like this often from people like me. My name is Patricia Smith, and I'm a 56-year-old woman living in New Hampshire. I've been a registered nurse for over 30 years, until November 20, 2009, when I was arrested for "manufacturing a controlled substance"—growing marijuana.

After all those years of nursing, I was experiencing back pain, so I decided to use marijuana instead of stronger pharmaceutical drugs, which I know from experience are addictive. Also, my daughter is bipolar, and small amounts of cannabis keep her condition stable. In fact, for two and a half years she has been off lithium—a miracle!

I grew about an ounce per month before a neighbor reported me. Since the police descended on me, I've spent my life savings and can't get work in my profession as a nurse in NH. I'm now a convicted felon with an appeal pending and facing a two-year minimum/four-year maximum state prison sentence plus more fines!

Recently, I found work as a caregiver to Alzheimer's patients in their homes. My boss knows all. I'm not ashamed of growing marijuana, so the judge said he wanted to make an example of me at my sentencing. This ordeal has been devastating beyond anything I could have

imagined. My life has been ruined and I have little hope for the future.

Please forgive me if I'm not making sense, but I am at my wit's end. If I don't win my state appeal, my lawyer wants to go federal, but I have no money left for that. Is there any way or anyone you know who could help?

Patricia

Dear Patricia,

Stories like yours break my heart. As you already know too well, this abuse of our rights continues on a daily basis, and it happens to good people all over the world. Just this week, we learned of cannabis protesters in Brazil being fired upon by riot police with tear gas and rubber bullets. There are still countries on this planet that execute marijuana users, and many of our nonviolent brothers and sisters languish in prison for the mere act of cultivating beneficial flowers.

I suggest you contact NORML if you haven't already. There are many great lawyers involved with the organization, and they've had success in representing cannabis "criminals" as well as getting out the word and helping raise funds.

Also, get on Facebook and tell your story there. Social networks are a great way to connect with people that can help, as well as a place where you will soon find many others that either share your plight or are willing to help you spiritually or financially.

Above all, try not to despair. You're not alone. When your ordeal is over—and it will eventually end—life will get better, and it's even possible that you'll resume your growing in a more friendly state. Many of the brightest stars in the marijuana-law reform movement began their activism because of an arrest or incarceration. My hope is that you will speak out and help us to end this type of injustice once and for all.

FLUORESCENTS FOR FLOWERS

I love trying to learn more about growing plants, but I'm not sure about some of the lighting information I see. I have a grow area set up that is about four meters square. I use 6 six-tube T5 H0 fixtures, three on the walls and three above, with one 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) light above as well. I usually have 12 to 16 plants, and they do fantastic. My question is about the fluorescents: Why do people say they're not sufficient for premium growth? The tubes for vegging are 6,500K at 5,000 lumens each, and the ones for flowering are 3,500K at 4,800 lumens each. Is this not sufficient?

Teddy Ballgame

Dear Teddy,

The lumens produced by fluorescent lighting are sufficient for plant growth, but the problem arises as the plants grow taller and the lower growth gets further and further away from the light source. As the distance from the bulb increases, the lumens absorbed by the whole plant are reduced. Your setup, in which the fluoros are supplemental to the 400-watt HPS, is the ideal way to use fluorescents during flowering. ✨

Email your questions to edit.grow@hightimes.com or to Trans-High Corp., Attn: Danny, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016.



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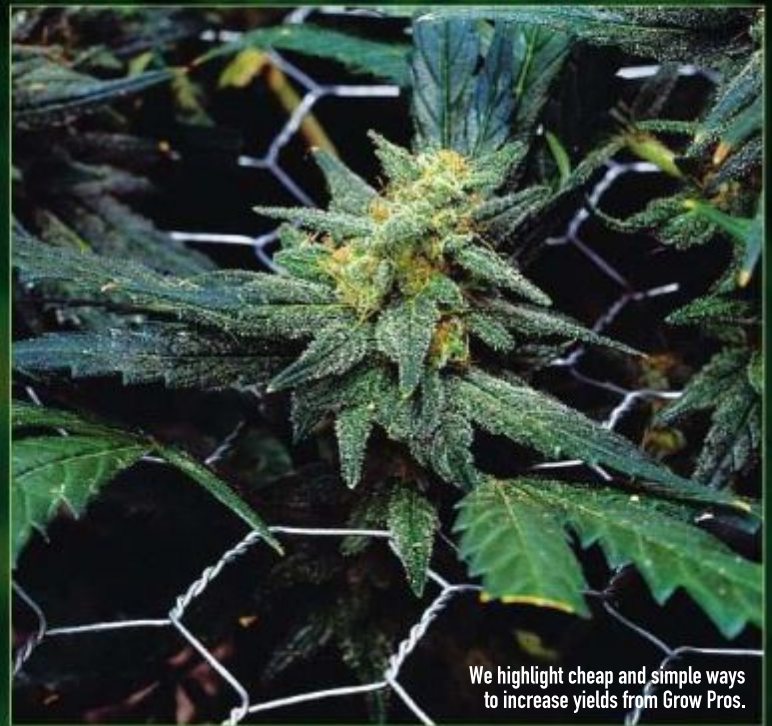
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We highlight cheap and simple ways to increase yields from Grow Pros.

BRIAN JAHN

21 GREAT GROWROOM TIPS & TRICKS

Discover the secrets of growroom success as we reach out to a distinguished lineup of cannabis-cultivation experts. Learn from the experiences of these skilled pot-production pros and use their advice to maximize the size and quality of your harvests.

THE FUTURE OF PSYCHEDELICS

Humans have been happily ingesting psychedelics since prehistoric times—to enhance their spiritual lives, to spur creativity, to heal and even just for kicks. Next month, we'll look at the bright future of mind alteration while honoring some of the visionaries of this re-emerging culture, including legendary chemist Sasha Shulgin.

WHEN TO HARVEST?

The triumphant return of Mel Frank to the pages of HIGH TIMES continues with this guide to harvesting that will help you take the anxiety out of the process. Covering everything from THC, CBD and CBN to a breakdown of the cannabis plant's anatomy, Mel's in-depth and scientific approach will answer the burning question of when to take the ladies down.

DESERT OASIS

The Cannahelp Cooperative invites us to inspect its top-rated compassion center and view its state-of-the-art growrooms in Palm Springs, CA. With a range of superlative strains cultivated by West Coast experts, this tour is sure to inspire growers and patients alike.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR MUSHROOMS

Check out our comprehensive guide to indoor cultivation and outdoor hunting, including tips, tricks and gear for the mushroom aficionado. The next time you go foraging, make sure you know your shit!

SACRED SITES

The ancients knew about special places on Earth that they believed were abodes of the gods. These were places of revelation, sites where the sacred could be awakened within us. So where are they in America? We go exploring.

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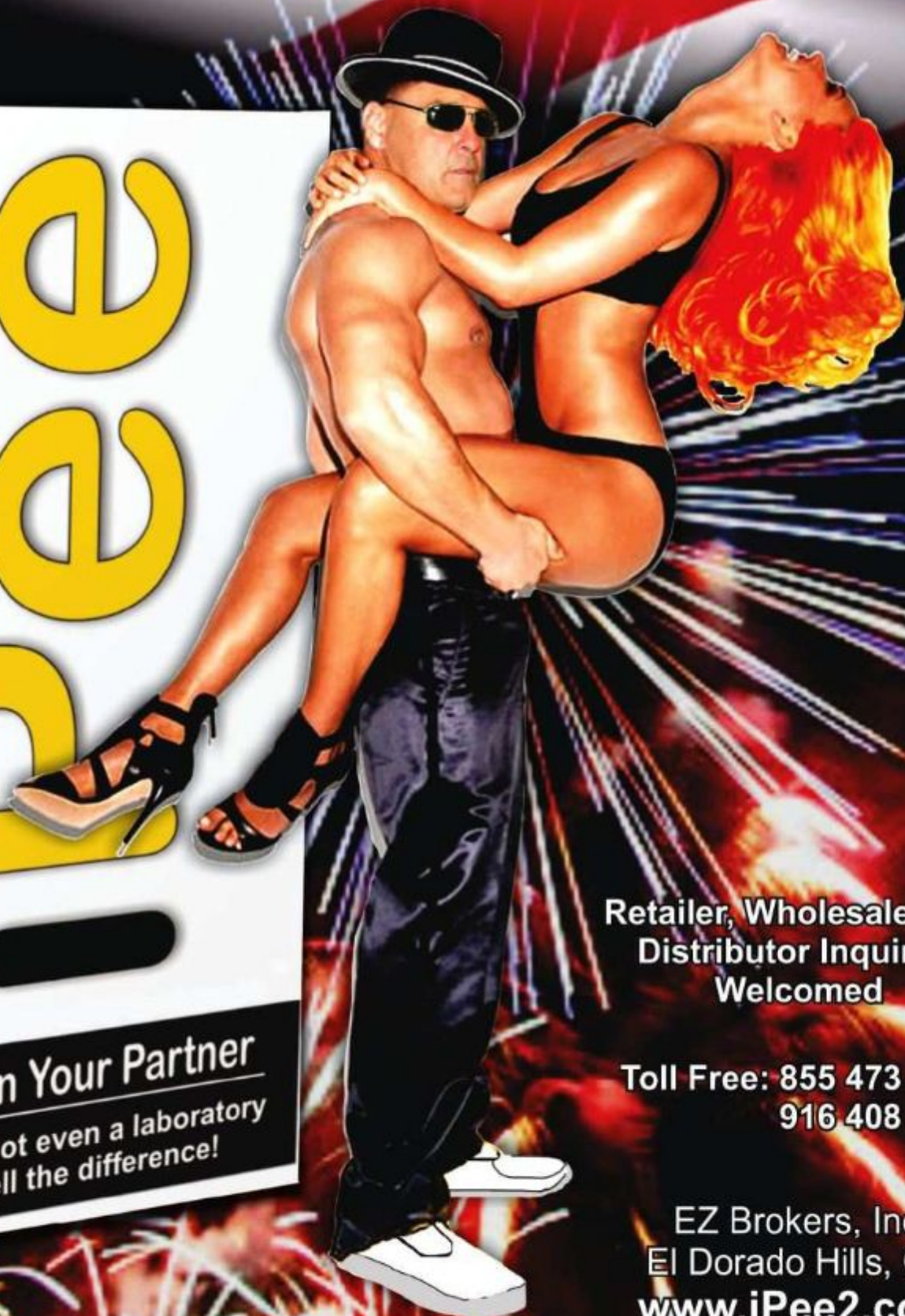
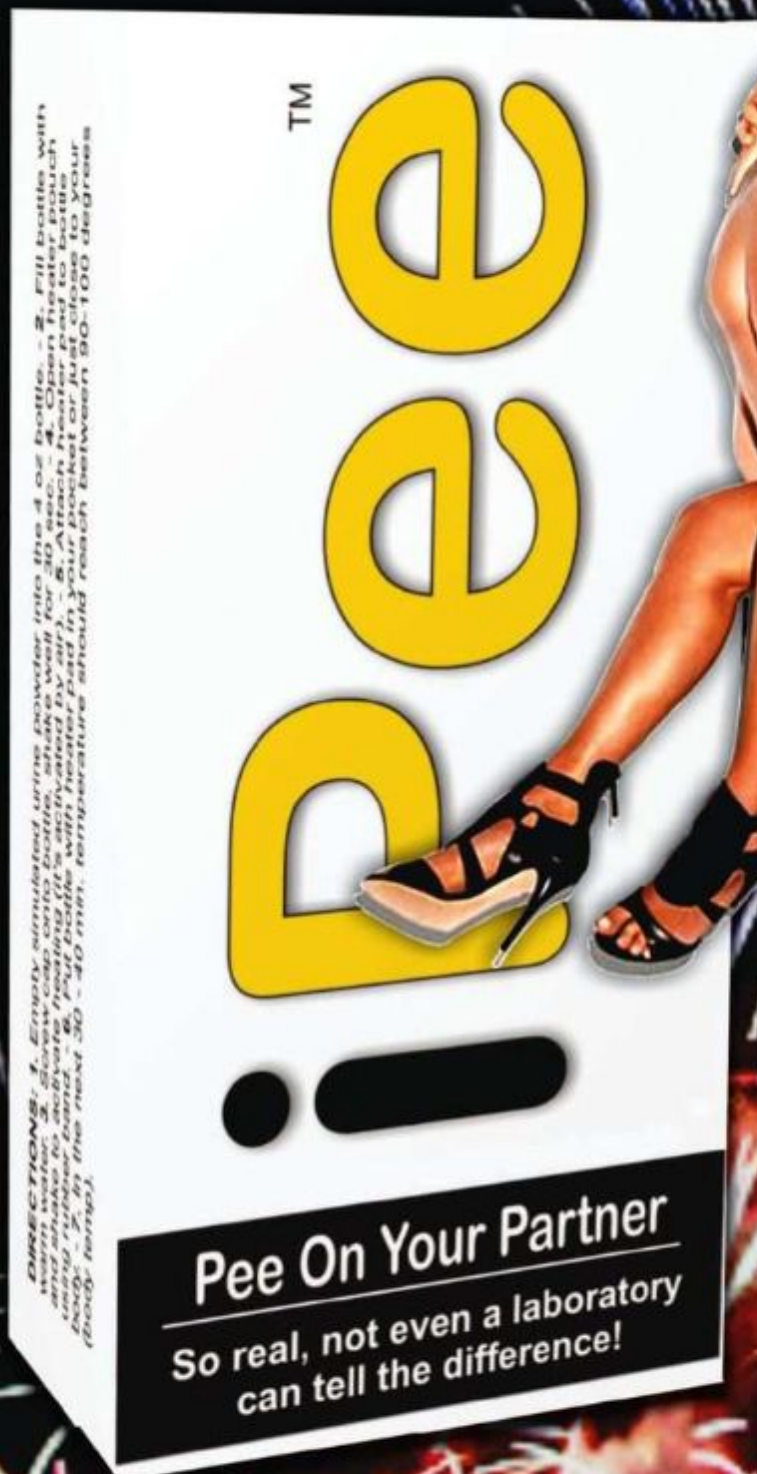
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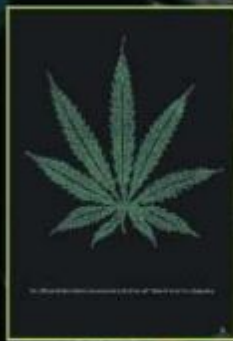


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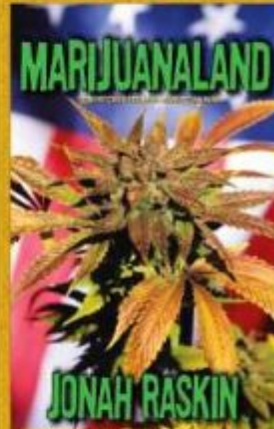
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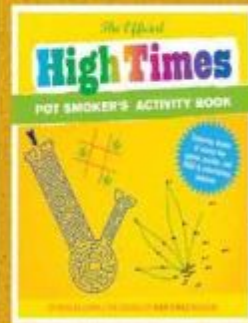
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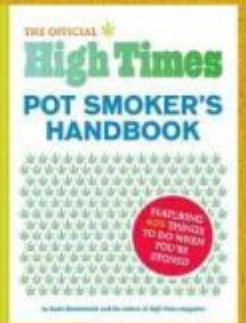
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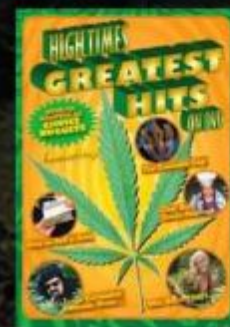
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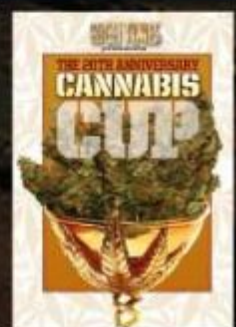
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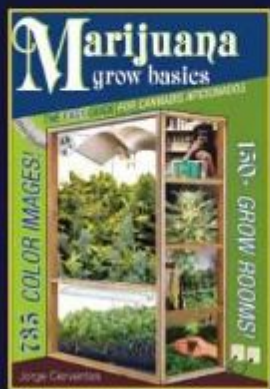
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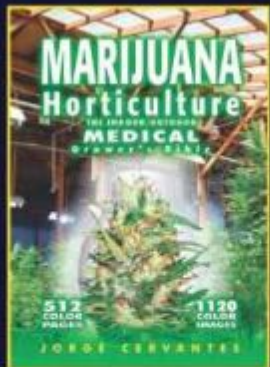
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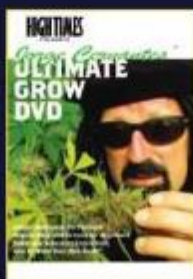
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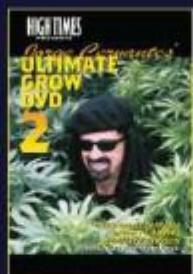
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I passed my exam!

11 Stanley Owsley RIP

The Dead's "Manager"... thanks for Grate Times, Times 10, and Zen Some...

21 WINDY

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31 LONG LIVE LEMMY

Lemmy loves ssspeed Weed loves Lemmy

2 Legalize TRES BAGS \$300!

4 ORIGINAL ARTWORK ON FACEBOOK
Kara Masten's art is Please like my face!

12 marijuana social network
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32 Izzy Dunfore

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14 Stop making corrupt cops rich... Legalize weed!

23 LESH IS MORE

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Thank you up to 20



3 BONG TV
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15 HANK WIND
RENT STONEHENGE

25 SEX IS LEGAL MONEY IS LEGAL WHY IS FUKKING? FOR MONEY ILLEGAL - George Carlin

34 IF YOUR POT-SMOKING LASTS MORE THAN FOUR HOURS YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR

6 LEGALIZE FREEDOM

16 To the dickhead who sold me (what appears to be) compressed camel crap: I'm growing my own stash so kiss my ass!

26 Steely Dan

35 Q. WHY DOESN'T A CHICKEN WEAR PANTS?
A. BECAUSE IT'S PECKER IS ON IT'S HEAD!

36 'Juana Get High?
Hee Haw Eat me raw wash it down with Geritol

7 Brooklyn's #1 Regressive Rock Act!

MIGHTY HIGH .net

17 A joint
a cup of coffee and the Wall Street Journal

18 KEEP IT REAL GREEN
WE'RE HIGHER THAN CALIFORNIA

27 hempknight
Proud Guardian and Defender of MidEarth, Evony Server #4

37 Your honor, I plead not guilty by reason of insanity because I'm Koo-Koo about smoking Cannabis!

8 END RIGHT TRASH! VOTE 2012
Love you Wilber

9 My husband says he wants a hit, and I make a fist!

19 STEM IS DOPE HAS RECORDS Next Big thing coming outta So-Cal

20 LOVE ME
STROKE MY ASS

28 DOES MY RED WHITE AND BLUE U.S.A. PEACE SIGN OFFEND YA?
1-800 TUFF SHIT

38 BUPS BUNNY says it would not harm a hare to smoke a couple of carrots while enjoying the sunset, but stay away from methamphetamine and other bad drugs or ya might ask "En ??? What's up, Doc?"

10 INDICA
ZZZZ ZZZZ ZZZZ That's All, Folks.

BALLOT

29 EXPERIENCE IS SOMETHING YOU DON'T GET UNTIL RIGHT AFTER GETTING IT

30 Peter Tosh

39 LEGALIZE SHEMP

40 R.I.P. OUT OF POT TIME TO DIE

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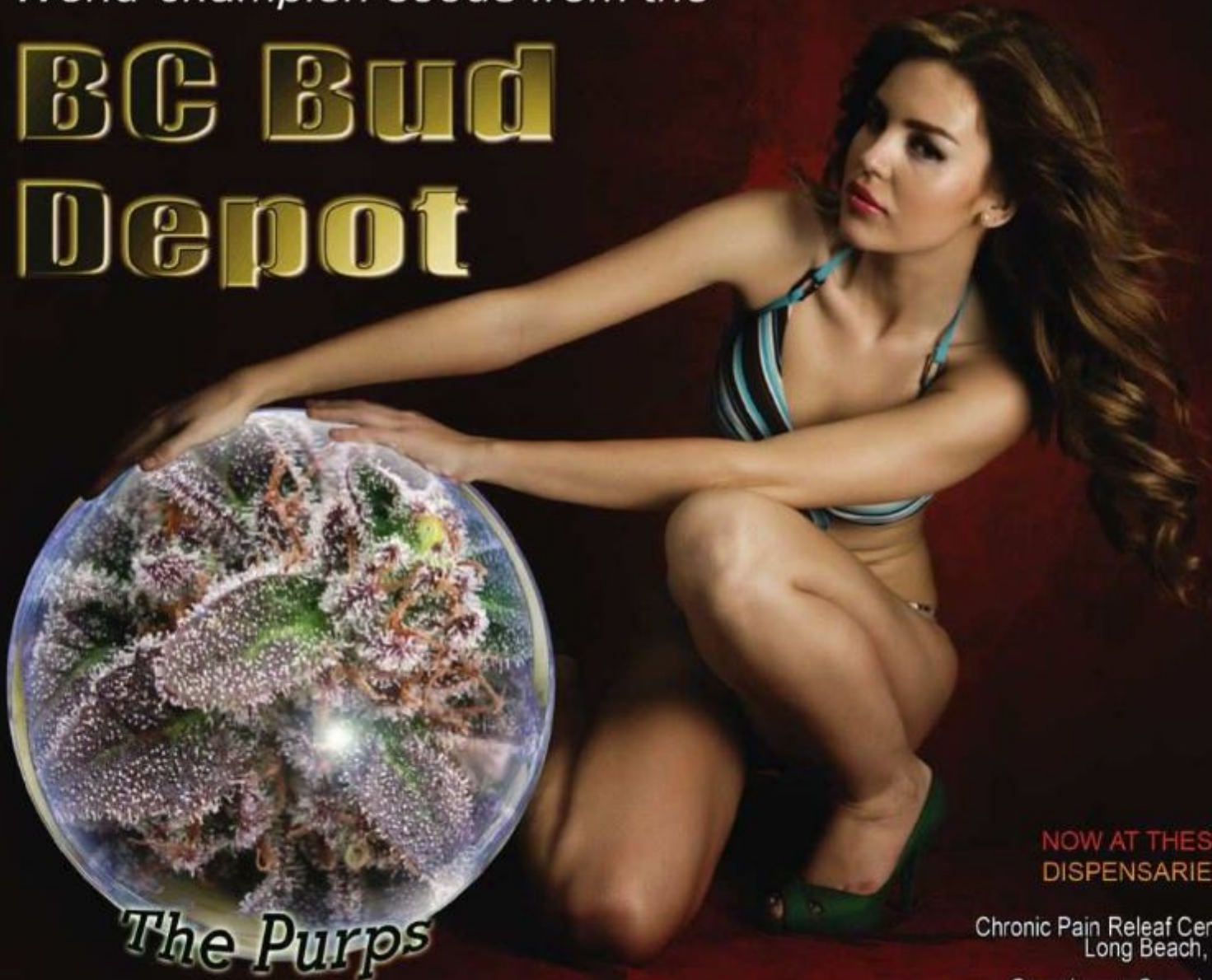
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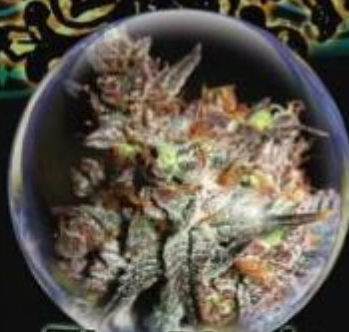


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- FM17 ARIAN'S HAZE

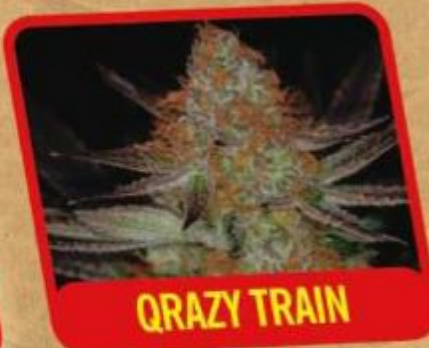
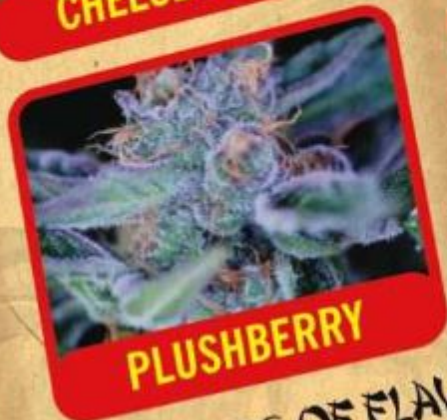
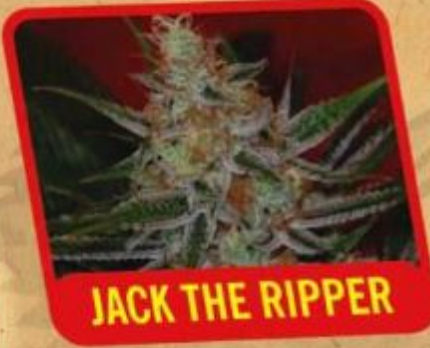
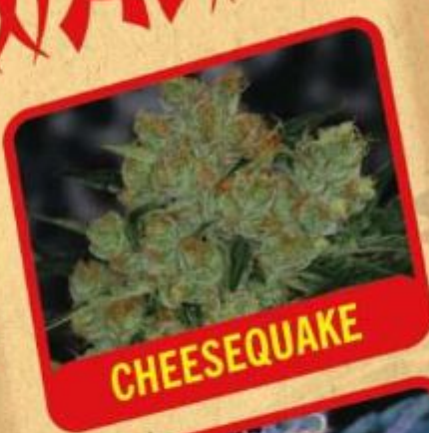
- ### ONTARIO'S BEST
- 081 BC BIG BUD
 - 082 NORTHERN LIGHTS
 - 083 WHITE WIDOW
 - 084 SUPER SKUNK
 - 085 AK
 - 086 HINDU KUSH
 - 087 ROMULAN X BC KUSH
 - 088 HASH PLANT
 - 089 PURPLE SKUNK
 - 0910 AFGHANI
 - 0911 BLACK DOMINA
 - 0912 XXX 420
 - 0913 STRANBERRY
 - 0914 SUPER SKUNK HAZE
 - 0915 HALL SATIVA
 - 0916 BLUBERRY
 - 0917 BLUBERRY KUSH
 - 0918 WHITE BUD

- ### TGA SUBCOOL SEEDS
- TG1 AGENT ORANGE
 - TG2 APOLLO 13 BX
 - TG3 CHEESE GANE
 - TG4 CHERNOBYL
 - TG5 DAIRY QUEEN
 - TG6 DEEP PURPLE
 - TG7 JACK'S CLEANER 2
 - TG8 JACK THE RIPPER
 - TG9 JILLYBEAN
 - TG10 KARDOM
 - TG11 PANDORA'S BOX
 - TG12 PLUSHBERRY
 - TG13 PINK LADY
 - TG14 CLEANER
 - TG15 CRAZY TRAIN
 - TG16 GUERLE
 - TG17 SPACE BOMB
 - TG18 SPACE JIL

- ### WILD ROSE SEEDS
- WR1 5 STAR
 - WR2 ASSHOLE
 - WR3 BLUE MOUNTAIN JAMAICAN
 - WR4 COLOMBIAN GOLD
 - WR5 ROSEBUD
 - WR6 SKUNK INDICA
 - WR7 SKUNK JAMAICAN
 - WR8 SS EARLYBUD
 - WR9 MILD WEST
- WE CARRY FEMINIZED**

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